Stocks fall; investors wary of opposition win

STORY IN BUSINESS, PAGE B1

WA-AY AKO LABOT SA INYO NA MGA KAGAW!

Ilonggos dump Miriam

BY MA. D. LABISTE
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—It looks like the nemesis of fungus faces and other low life has lost

ILONGGOS/ A21

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2001 ★★ 64 PAGES 5 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 157 ₱15

Comelec warns TV networks on 'trending'

BY G. LACUARTA, A. NOCUM, D. PAZZIBUGAN AND B. RIVERA

COMMISSION on Elections Chair Alfredo Benipayo yesterday warned the public of possible "trending" in the quick counts being conducted by broadcast networks and computer schools, which continue to provide contrasting

COMELEC/ A19

UNHERALDED, unpaid and sleepless for two nights straight, teachers, those old reliables on Election Day, collapse on their desks at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium where the Comelec is canvassing the election returns for local polls. ERIK ARAZAS

'Worst Comelec ever'

Teachers, bishops hit chaotic elections

BY NORMAN BORDADORA, ANDREA ECHAVEZ AND BLANCHE RIVERA

THE COMMISSION on Elections continued to sweat and fidget yesterday, as scolding bishops, unpaid teachers and impatient politicians blasted what they called the worst Comelec ever.

The Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) branded the May 14 polls as the "worst elections ever," and demanded that the Comelec cough up a P900-per diem promised to each of 480,000 teachers who rendered election service.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) chided the poll body for Election Day irregularities that resulted in the apparent disenfranchisement of thousands of voters nationwide and the failure of elections in several areas.

And senatorial candidate Joker Arroyo and former Comelec Chair Christian Monsod asked the commission to immediately start working on automating the voting system to prevent a repeat of problems in Monday's elections and to speed up the excruciatingly slow pace of the count.

The ACT, representing around 100,000 public school teachers nationwide, said infighting in the Comelec had adversely affected the preparations for the polls, which saw election paraphernalia either

WORST/ A6

POSTER POWER: Going, going, gone are the wall-to-wall campaign materials that defaced the metropolis the past three months. The Metro Manila Development Authority has ordered all mayors to clean up the electoral garbage. *(Story on Page A26.)* ERIK ARAZAS

ACROSS THE NATION

Marcoses, Singsons, Dys, Ortegas, Josons winning

BY THE PDI BUREAUS

POLITICAL families in Northern and Central Luzon appeared headed for a firmer grip of local politics as their candidates posted a strong showing at the polls, unofficial and partial election returns from the Commission on Elections showed.

The Marcoses in Ilocos Norte, the Singsons in Ilocos Sur, the Ortegas in La Union, the Dys in Isabela and Josons in Nueva Ecija appeared headed for victory.

Both Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and his sister Rep. Imee Marcos ran unopposed for reelection.

The Marcoses' ally, comebacking Ilocano politician Roque Ablan Jr., appeared headed for an upset in his congressional fight against incumbent Rep. Rodolfo Fariñas of the first district.

Based on unofficial, partial results recorded by the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) on Tuesday, Ablan garnered 9,373 votes and Fariñas, 5,470.

In Ilocos Sur, relatives of outgoing Gov. Luis

MARCOSES/ A21

Toe-to-toe slugfest in Metro polls

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA, ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ AND JEROME ANING

STALWARTS of pro- and anti-Estrada camps are slugging toe to toe in Metro Manila, according to the quick count of the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel).

The mayoral race in Quezon City, featuring former Speaker Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte and

TOE-TO-TOE/ A21

NAMFREL

as of 10 p.m., May 15

No. of precincts: 7,705

1	DE CASTRO	Ind.	564,256
2	FLAVIER	PPC	481,605
3	DRILON	PPC	456,313
4	OSMEÑA	PPC	449,154
5	ARROYO	PPC	446,817
6	MAGSAYSAY	PPC	429,651
7	VILLAR	PPC	427,229
8	PANGILINAN	PPC	424,006
9	ANGARA	PnM	410,979
10	RECTO	PPC	389,621
11	LACSON	PnM	369,669
12	EJERCITO-ESTRADA	PnM	363,177
13	HONASAN	PnM	358,361
14	DEFENSOR-SANTIAGO	PnM	342,718
15	TAÑADA	PPC	340,644
16	PUNO	PnM	335,560
17	ENRILE	PnM	333,493
18	MONSOD	PPC	293,707
19	PAGDANGANAN	PPC	288,906
20	MERCADO	PnM	282,277
21	HERRERA	PPC	274,955
22	YASAY	Ind.	207,776
23	VINZONS-CHATO	PPC	200,593
24	MADRIGAL	PnM	192,190
25	RASUL	PnM	192,161
26	TAMANO	PnM	121,658
27	CANOY	PnM	112,504
28	MORATO	Ind.	29,961
29	ADAZA	Ind.	27,348
30	NAVARRO	Ind.	25,958

First 48 hours: A look at media quick counts

BY LEO MAGNO

COMPETING media outfits have traditionally been trying to outscoop each other by processing and disseminating news faster than the others using new technologies such as the Internet.

However, in data-sensitive situations like the national elections where a single wrong digit can start a national stir, can media depend on new technologies to keep their integrity and accuracy intact?

Take for example the ABS-CBN and GMA-7 networks, the Philippine Daily Inquirer and the Philippine Star.

The first two are bitter rivals in the TV and

FIRST/ A19

Killings, bombings, abductions, ballot snatchings continue

KILLINGS, bombings and snatching of ballot boxes yesterday disrupted the counting of votes in several "hot spots" across the country.

Two policemen, a barangay captain and a campaign supporter were killed on Monday night and Tuesday morning, bringing to 76 the total number of political killings since Jan. 2 when campaigning began for the May 14 congressional and local elections.

Police also reported that the communist New People's Army in Leyte province yesterday abducted a town mayor who is running for reelection.

According to a military task force organized to ensure honest, orderly and peaceful elections, at least 30 people have been reported missing and unaccounted for.

The rising violence has prompted Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, to call for a reevaluation of the entire electoral process.

SPO3 Gerardo Calaycay of the Philippine National Police Maritime Group died in hail of bullets at 3 a.m. Tuesday when armed men snatched four ballot boxes in Barangay Casambalangan, Sta. Ana, Cagayan. ***(See story in Across the Nation, Page A14.)***

Four hours earlier, SPO1 Jose Ruiz was shot dead allegedly by heavily armed NPA guerrillas in

KILLINGS/ A21

Loi gets votes as Erap surrogate

BY AMANDO DORONILA

ANALYSIS

WHATEVER the final results of the senatorial elections, Dr. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, wife of deposed President Joseph Estrada, has come up strongly in the early tallies.

What's extraordinary about her poll rating is that when she launched her campaign in February, she was nearly at the bottom of the poll surveys, bathed by the fall-out of Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson's charges that she allegedly received millions in "jueteng" money payoffs. In subsequent surveys, she hardly improved her rating.

As the elections came closer, she shot up in pre-poll survey ratings. In the Social Weather Stations survey of May 4-7, Loi took 13th to 14th place and was tied with Honasan.

In the Pulse Asia survey of April 16-20, she ranked 13th to 18th place, moving in the same band with Sen. Gregorio Honasan and former

LOI/ A19

PPC leads 8-5 in Namfrel count

BY CYNTHIA D. BALANA

EARLY results from the unofficial count of the National Movement for Free Elections yesterday showed administration candidates retaining an 8-5 lead in the senatorial race widely seen as a proxy war between President Macapagal-Arroyo and her ousted predecessor, Joseph Estrada.

As of 10 p.m. yesterday, independent candidate Noli de Castro unsurprisingly led the pack with less than 4 percent of precincts nationwide reporting. ***(See chart on this page for figures and ranking.)***

The People Power Coalition candidates who made it to the "Magic 13" circle were Juan Flavier, Franklin Drilon, Joker Arroyo, Serge Osmeña III, Ramon Magsaysay, Francisco Pangilinan, Manuel Villar and Ralph Recto.

Opposition candidates from the LDP-Puwersa ng Masa who got in were Edgardo Angara, Panfilo Lacson, Luisa Ejercito and Gregorio Honasan.

The 14th slot was occupied by Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

An earlier tally showed that De Castro got the highest number of votes in the National Capital Region, Caraga, and Regions 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

Flavier was first place in Cordillera Autonomous Region, and Drilon took Region 6.

The Namfrel quick count started to gain momentum after the Commission on Elections agreed Monday night to give it extra copies of the certificates of canvass after a

PPC/ A19

PARANG HOSPITAL ARREST NA YAN!

Second FRONT PAGE

Erap, Jinggoy to have more tests at hospital

By Donna S. Cueto
and Cathy C. Yamsuan

JAILED former President Estrada may be having an extended stay at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, at least until all his medical tests are completed, his lawyer Raymond Fortun said yesterday.

Estrada's son and cellmate, San Juan mayor Jinggoy Estrada, also has to undergo medical tests, said Fortun. He could not say when the medical tests would be completed.

The Sandiganbayan anti-graft court has yet to resolve a petition from Estrada's lawyers for him to be placed under house arrest.

The lawyer described Estrada as "not feeling well" and suffering from a bad cough when he was transferred from his bungalow cell in Laguna to the Quezon City hospital on Saturday.

Not sick?

Fortun appeared to be contradicting the position of another Estrada lawyer, Rene Saguisag, who has insisted that Estrada was not sick at all, implying that the transfer of the detainees to the hospital was for other than health reasons.

Saguisag has said that the "official" reason for Estrada's transfer was a "medical" one.

Fortun said Estrada may even be suffering from the bronchitis that Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao had said was one of the ailments of the jailed ex-president.

Arraignment

"But we're not sure. We're still waiting for the medical report," Fortun said.

Estrada's arraignment on a perjury charge has been set for tomorrow, May 17.

But his lawyers have petitioned the Sandiganbayan to defer the May 17 arraignment.

Unless the petition is granted, Estrada will be appearing before the anti-graft court tomorrow, the first time for him to do so since his arrest for plunder and corruption charges last month.

The plunder case is scheduled for arraignment on June 27.

The Estrada lawyers are also apparently in disagreement on the issue of live media coverage of his trial.

Yesterday Saguisag asked the Supreme Court for a five-day extension to comment on the issue, citing "divided counsel" as one of the reasons.

Saguisag apparently also failed to get a definite answer from Estrada whom he saw briefly at the Veterans hospital on May 12 because the disgraced leader was preoccupied with the elections.

The high court earlier gave Estrada until yesterday to file a comment on the proposal of Justice Secretary Hernando Perez to have the court proceedings covered live to assure the ex-president's supporters that he would be tried fairly.

Presidential suite

Estrada and his son are occupying the state-owned hospital's presidential suite, attended by two doctors. An emergency medical team is on standby.

Estrada and Jinggoy have the use of a television set and a transistor radio to monitor the election results.

Fortun said the prisoners are constantly under guard by two soldiers in full battle gear. Outside the room are five soldiers, armed with M-16s and M-203s. There are more soldiers down the corridor, Fortun said.

There are also two APCs on the VMMC grounds, and some 300 soldiers, he said. The place is also swarming with policemen, Fortun said.

The lawyers again reiterated the arguments for placing Estrada under house arrest.

"Estrada is not a common person. He is a former head of state voted into office by almost 11 million Filipinos," he said.

Saguisag said those who are objecting to house arrest for Estrada—arguing that other detainees should also get the same "treatment"—should bring their objections to the court.

"Well, they should have complained and asked for the same thing. They should file their own petition for house arrest if they feel that way," Saguisag said.

Bishop asks: Treat Erap with dignity

A TOP church leader urged authorities yesterday to treat former President Joseph Estrada with more dignity. and expressed shock that his detention house initially had no curtains.

After his televised arrest, Estrada and his son Jinggoy were jailed April 25 on the non-bailable capital offense of plundering the economy.

"Thank God they didn't handcuff him," said Archbishop Antonio Quevedo, who heads the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

Quevedo said Estrada should not have been subjected to embarrassing situations. He cited television coverage of Estrada being fingerprinted and photographed by police for mug shots.

He said Estrada should have been placed under house arrest.

Estrada's special detention house in a police camp in Santa Rosa, Laguna, is acceptable although it should be improved, Quevedo said.

"I was shocked when he requested President (Gloria) Macapagal-Arroyo that his toilet should have a door, that his windows should have curtains," Quevedo told a news briefing. "It is as though he might as well live in a house with mirrors, glass-enclosed so that everybody will see him."

When Ms Macapagal recently paid him a surprise visit in the detention house, Estrada asked for curtains and a door for a toilet in his bedroom. He also complained about a clogged drain in another toilet.

Estrada appealed for house arrest but Ms Macapagal said only the court handling his corruption cases could decide that.

The powerful Catholic church helped lead huge street protests that lead to Estrada's ouster on Jan. 20 over alleged corruption.

Ms Macapagal, then vice president, succeeded him. Prosecutors accuse Estrada of illegally amassing billions of pesos during his 31 months in office. He denies any wrongdoing.

When thousands of his supporters stormed the presidential palace on May 1 in what the government said was a rebellion, Estrada was brought by helicopter to the Santa Rosa detention house. The rioting was crushed by police troops in clashes that killed six people and led to the arrest of more than 100 Estrada followers.

Estrada and his son, mayor of San Juan, were airlifted to Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City on Saturday when the former complained of fever and the latter of stomachache.

The court allowed Estrada and his son to vote in the hospital during Monday's congressional and local elections, which are regarded as a referendum of public support to either Estrada or Ms Macapagal.

Hospital director Salvador Flores said Estrada and his son were in good health but would undergo tests.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said it was not clear when Estrada would be moved back to the Laguna detention house. He said the government was considering placing Estrada in a house in the hospital compound. *AP*

Estrada asks Sandigan to postpone arraignment

By V. Contreras

DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada yesterday asked the Sandiganbayan to defer his scheduled arraignment tomorrow on perjury charges, citing a technicality.

Lawyer Rene Saguisag, counsel for the ex-president, charged that Ombudsman Aniano Desierto bypassed the Civil Service Commission when he filed the perjury case before the Sandiganbayan.

The case stemmed from Estrada's alleged failure to disclose his true net worth in 1999.

Saguisag said that under the law, the CSC is tasked with looking into ethical issues involving public officials.

Perjury

Aside from filing the motion to defer tomorrow's arraignment, Saguisag also asked the Sandigan's Fourth Division to dismiss the perjury charge, or at least send it back to the Ombudsman for reinvestigation.

Estrada is the lone accused in Criminal Case No. 26564 for violation of the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees.

This after he declared a net worth of only P35 million in 1999.

Testimony at his impeachment trial alleged that he had amassed a fortune of some P3 billion during that time from gambling payoffs, tax kickbacks and questionable business deals.

In the motion, Saguisag argued that Republic Act No. 6713, the law under which Estrada was charged, mandates the CSC to investigate cases of misdeclared statements of assets and liabilities.

Lead agency

"The lead agency should be the Civil Service Commission, with its administrative thrust, before a punitive agency like the Ombudsman or the Department of Justice could take over," he said.

Hence, the lawyer added, "the institution of this criminal case without involving the CSC is in violation of the law."

Saguisag recalled that in a December 1999 resolution involving a misdeclared SAL (Naval vs Garcia), the Ombudsman ruled that a noncomplying official should be given a chance to correct his SAL before charges are filed against him.

Quoting directly from the resolution, Saguisag said: "It is the refusal to take the necessary corrective action after being directed to do so which serves as a basis for the taking of administrative and criminal sanctions against the official concerned."

The motion is set for hearing today.

2 charges

If it is dismissed, Estrada will face his first arraignment in connection with the cases pending against him at the Sandiganbayan. He faces two other charges, namely, plunder and the illegal use of an alias.

Estrada last appeared before the anti-graft court on April 16 when he posted bail after warrants of arrest were issued against him for perjury and graft.

The latter charge, which was also raffled off to the Fourth Division, was later withdrawn by state prosecutors along with four other graft cases.

The prosecutors said they did this to head off charges of double jeopardy since most of the cases against Estrada overlap and are based on the same accusations.

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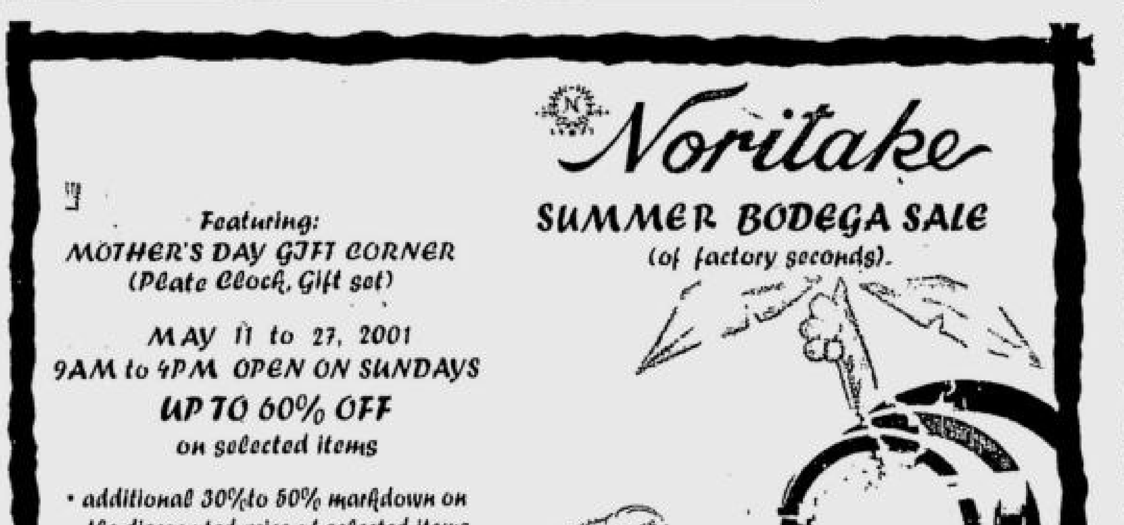
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SC asked to junk petition vs political parties

By Cathy C. Yamsuan

THE SOLICITOR General has asked the Supreme Court to dismiss a petition that sought to disqualify political parties and other groups from the party-list elections.

Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo filed a comment yesterday to counter the arguments presented by Bayan Muna, a party-list organization that had asked the high tribunal to disqualify five major political parties from the May 14 polls.

Bayan Muna asserted that major political parties like the Nationalist People's Coalition, Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, Partido ng Masang Pilipino, Lakas-NUCD-UMDP and the Liberal Party should have been excluded from the party-list elections since their members already sit as regular congressmen in the House of Representatives.

Bayan Muna also wanted the SC to disqualify "pseudo" party-list groups like Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga, JEEP and Bagong Bayani, saying that they did not represent marginalized sectors.

Marcelo countered that the Constitution "allows participation by duly-registered national, regional and sectoral parties or organizations" in party-list elections.

He said the Charter "even states that no votes cast in favor of a political party, organization or coalition shall be valid, except those registered under the party-list system."

Marcelo said the Constitution also ensures that "political parties, organizations or coalitions registered under the party-list system, while not represented on voters' registration boards, boards of election inspectors, boards of canvassers and other similar boards, shall be entitled to appoint poll watchers in accordance with the law."

Bayan Muna contended that political parties have an undue advantage in the party-list system since their members could get elected to the House through regular elections.

Allowing them more representation through the party-list system would deprive marginalized sectors of a chance at representation, the group added.

Marcelo said the aim of the party-list system is "not to provide representation to sectoral groups alone but to accord proportionate representation to political parties, so that those whose candidates did not win but obtained a substantial number of votes would not be completely denied representation in Congress."

Another party-list group scored the Commission on Elections yesterday for its failure to inform voters about the party-list system.

Akbayan, in a statement, said the Comelec was to blame for "voters not knowing what the party-list is all about, for teachers themselves not knowing what the system is all about."

Akbayan said the Comelec had ample time to disseminate information about the party-list system in the last three years but it failed to do so, thereby repeating the mistakes of the 1998 elections.

Akbayan also decried the non-accreditation of party-list watchers for the elections, saying this deprived them of a safeguard for their votes. *With Leila B. Salaverria*

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Outages not poll-related—Palace

By Martin P. Marfil

FRANTIC calls from the public alarmed about the brownouts that hit several areas of the country on election day prompted Malacañang yesterday to announce that the outages were not election-related.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the National Power Corp. traced the brownouts to overloaded wiring, distribution line faults and broken jumpers.

"They looked into the problems and reported that none of the incidents were security or election-related," Tiglao said.

Napocor, in a report submitted to Malacañang, blamed the power interruption in Metro Manila, which affected about 50 public schools to "overloading."

It blamed the outages in Basilan and Palawan provinces to "undervoltage" and "distribution line faults," respectively.

The brownout in Rizal, it said, was caused by a "broken jumper."

The power outages, which struck after the polls closed and the counting had begun, caused apprehension among the public.

Suspicions of cheating and possible violence were rife, as people recalled similar incidents in past elections.

In San Juan, Metro Manila, bailiwick of ousted President Joseph Estrada and where his son JV Ejercito was running for mayor, brownouts hit at least two schools after the count got underway.

Ronald Estella, candidate for congressman from San Juan, told a radio interviewer that he was leading the count when the brownouts struck.

After the lights came back on, he said, he found himself thousands of votes behind his nearest rival, Estrada's executive secretary Ronaldo Zamora.

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Mayon: Eruption in weeks

MAYON volcano could erupt within weeks after expelling lava fragments, government seismologists said yesterday.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said the volcano showed "apparent calm" over the past 24 hours after a "lava dome" at its summit partially collapsed during an extrusion of lava fragments on Monday.

However, "this should not be taken as a prevailing condition" because "the volcano is likely to rebuild overpressures and undergo another series of explosions anytime."

Such explosions "would likely result in more lava and debris avalanches, small pyroclastic flows or lava flows" within a six-kilometer radius from the crater, which has been permanently declared off limits to humans. *AFP*

ERRATUM

Canon

On page E4 of Canon supplement which appears today, the President of Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc. is Satoshi Yahata who succeeded Satoshi Kimura. Our apologies.

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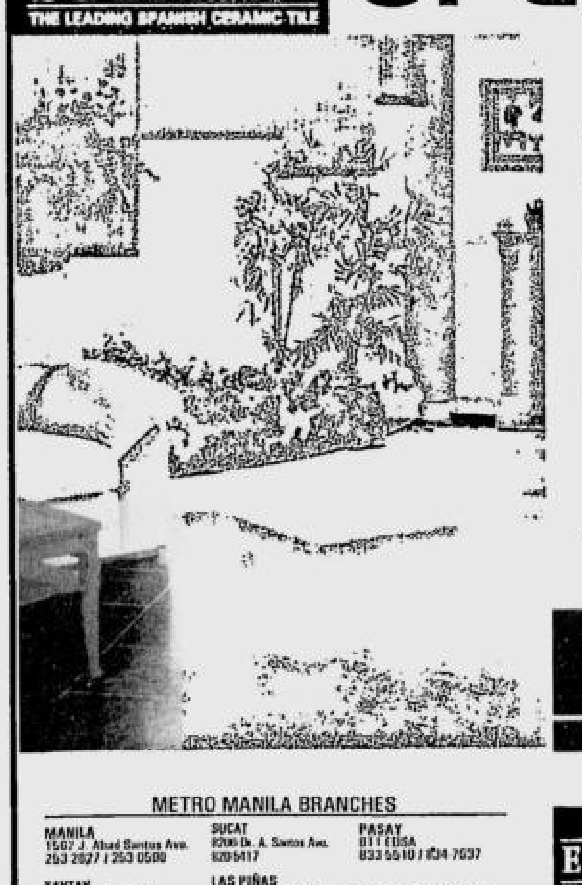

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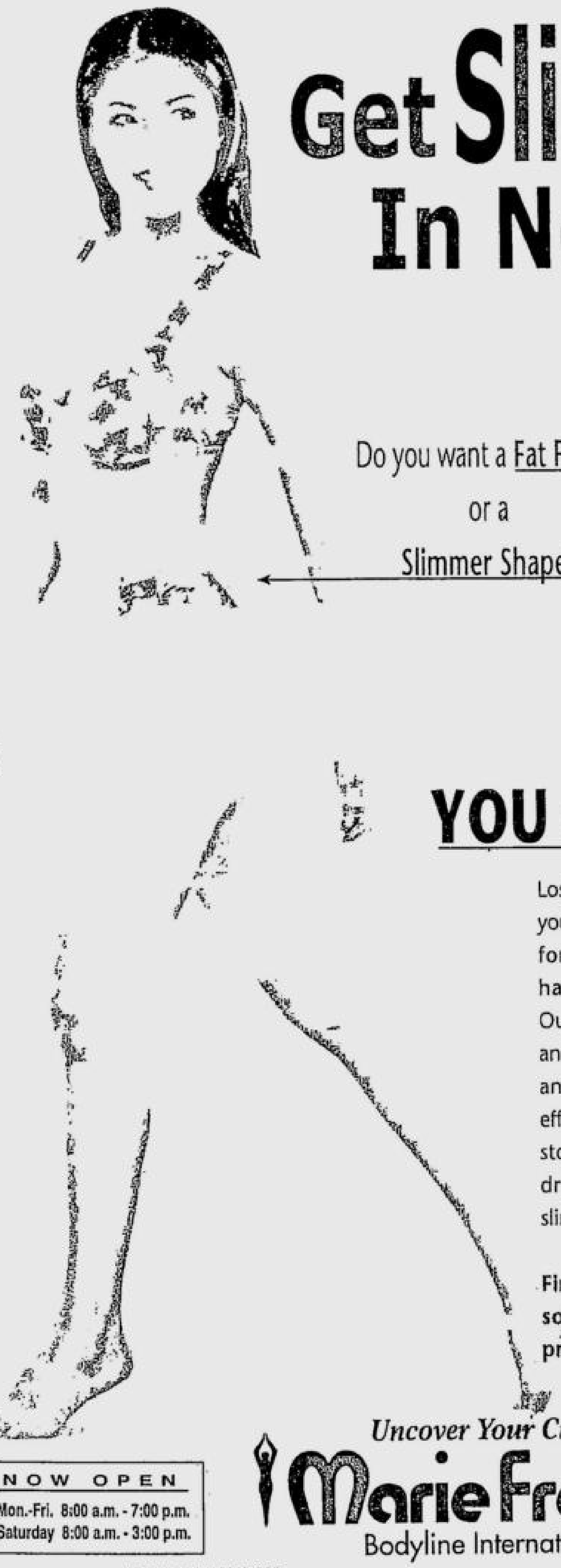

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Next step for Gloria: Call for unity

INDICATING what direction President Macapagal-Arroyo would take after the results of the elections have been sifted and interpreted, Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the President's thrust would be a call for unity and predicted a post-election realignment of political forces.

"The President is reaching out to all groups to become a President of the entire country. She doesn't want to rule over a country that is divided. And I'm sure the opposition members would be reasonable enough to listen," he said.

Tiglao said the first post-election Cabinet meeting scheduled for next Tuesday, May 22, will assess the election results, summarize the "lessons from the political developments in the past" and get a consensus on what direction the country should take.

He said that the meeting would mainly focus on "how to push the country forward now that elections are over because for the past several months, the attention of the entire government has been distracted because of this political volatility."

He said poverty alleviation programs would be accelerated.

The May 1 siege of Malacañang by the mostly poor supporters of deposed President Estrada, even though it failed, was considered a wake-up call for the ruling elite.

Tiglao welcomed reported statements from the political opposition, saying they would not be obstructionists.

"I'm sure they realize that after these political developments, our main goal is to really start uniting and push the country forward," he said.

Apart from going to a wake in the evening, the President spent a quiet day in Malacañang yesterday, monitoring the election count and the situation throughout the country.

In what should normally have been a busy day, regular Cabinet meetings usually being held on Tuesdays, there were no public engagements scheduled for the President yesterday except for the wake for a military general in Fort Bonifacio.

From Pampanga, where she cast her vote early on Monday, the President reportedly spent the night in her private residence.

Tiglao said the President was "not worried nor alarmed" by the initial results of the elections, despite reports of disenfranchisement of some voters because of confusion or power outages.

"We have been receiving some reports, like the slow count in Mindanao, but overall no alarm has been raised about any kind of worrisome flaw in the counting process," Tiglao said. *Juliet Labog-Javellana*

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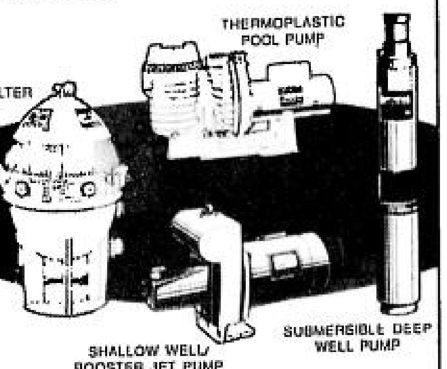

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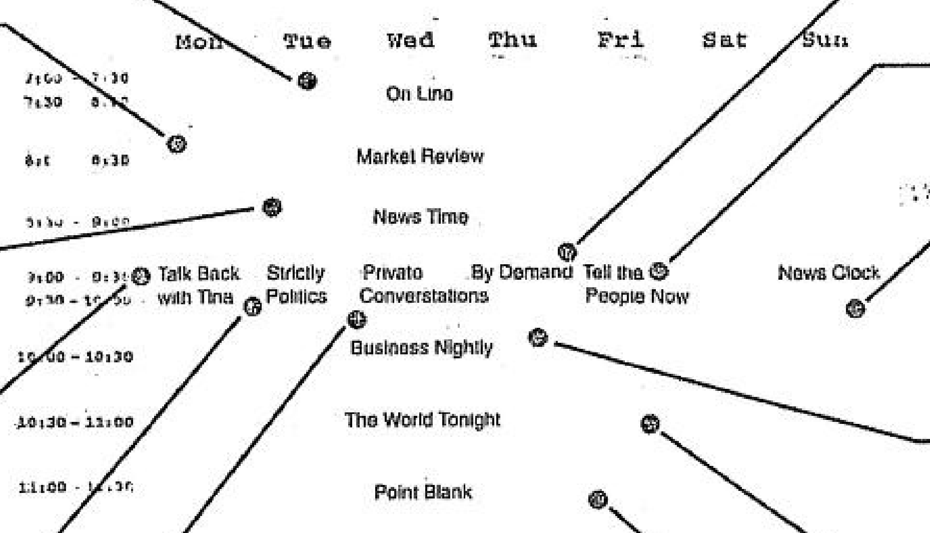

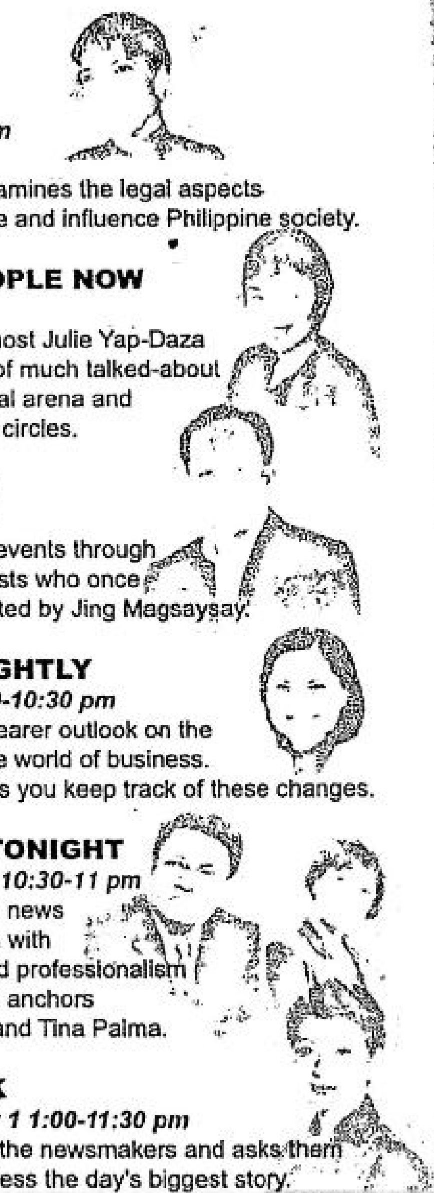

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2 TV reporters, crews survive Jolo sea mishap

BY N. MUSTAFA,
PDI Mindanao Bureau
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TWO Manila-based reporters of GMA and ABS-CBN news networks and four crew members survived a sea mishap off the coast of Jolo, Sulu, while returning from an election coverage Monday afternoon.

Raffy Tima of GMA and Erwin Tulfo of ABS-CBN were returning from the coastal town of Pangutaran at about 3 p.m. when big waves slammed their speedboat, causing a crack at the back of the vessel.

The reporters and their crew, Lando Sonza and Willie Ca-ay Jr. of GMA and Chris Palubusan and Rudy Quirol of ABS-CBN, had to wade ashore when the boat sank a few meters off the shore in Jolo.

A team of soldiers was with the reporters when the mishap occurred. The speedboat was owned by Sulu reelectionist Gov. Abdusakur Tan.

"It was fortunate we knew how to swim, otherwise we would have drowned," Tulfo told defense reporters by cellular phone.

Not accidental

In Jolo, however, reports said the incident was not accidental. Reports said a loud explosion preceded the boat's sinking and that a hole was found at the back of the vessel shortly after.

But it could not be determined what hit the speedboat.

Fishermen towed the boat to a nearby island, where the journalists stayed. Late Monday night, they were fetched by a passing Navy boat that was on its way from Pangutaran Island to transport ballot boxes to the capital town of Jolo.

The two television networks sent their teams to Pangutaran to document reports that the town's municipal hall burned down after it was subjected to mortar shelling.

Initial reports said that residents had blamed elements of the 2nd Scout Ranger Battalion. Other reports claimed that the shelling was perpetrated by followers of a local politician.

Ambush

The trouble in Pangutaran started Thursday last week, when a soldier was killed and two others were wounded in an ambush.

Maj. Alberto Gepilano, spokesperson of Task Force Comet, said the victims belonged to the 2nd Scout Ranger Battalion and Naval Special Warfare Unit, which was sent to the island to verify the presence of armed groups.

Gepilano said the troops were met by gunfire from a "well-entrenched" group that used 81mm and 60mm mortars and .50-cal. machine guns.

On Friday, a report reaching the provincial police command said that while policemen were guarding the municipal and police station building in Panguntaran, helicopter gunships started bombarding the main poblacion of Simbahan, resulting in the burning of houses and almost razing the entire poblacion.

Thousands of evacuees fled the island and went to Jolo. The evacuees said the soldiers disarmed the 11 policemen and ordered them to take off their uniforms.

Workers of the Integrated Provincial Health Office and the Department of Social Welfare and Development who visited Barangay Simbahan on Sunday said the policemen were detained.

The policemen claimed they were manhandled and their cash and valuables taken. The soldiers also allegedly destroyed the policemen's radio equipment.

Four charred bodies were seen floating on the shores of Pangutaran. Two of the victims were identified as Nul Tala and a certain Samuel. The other two bodies were that of a woman and a child.

According to the military, there was sporadic fighting after the soldiers were ambushed on Thursday. The suspects allegedly retreated to the municipal compound but were flushed out from the buildings and the houses they occupied.

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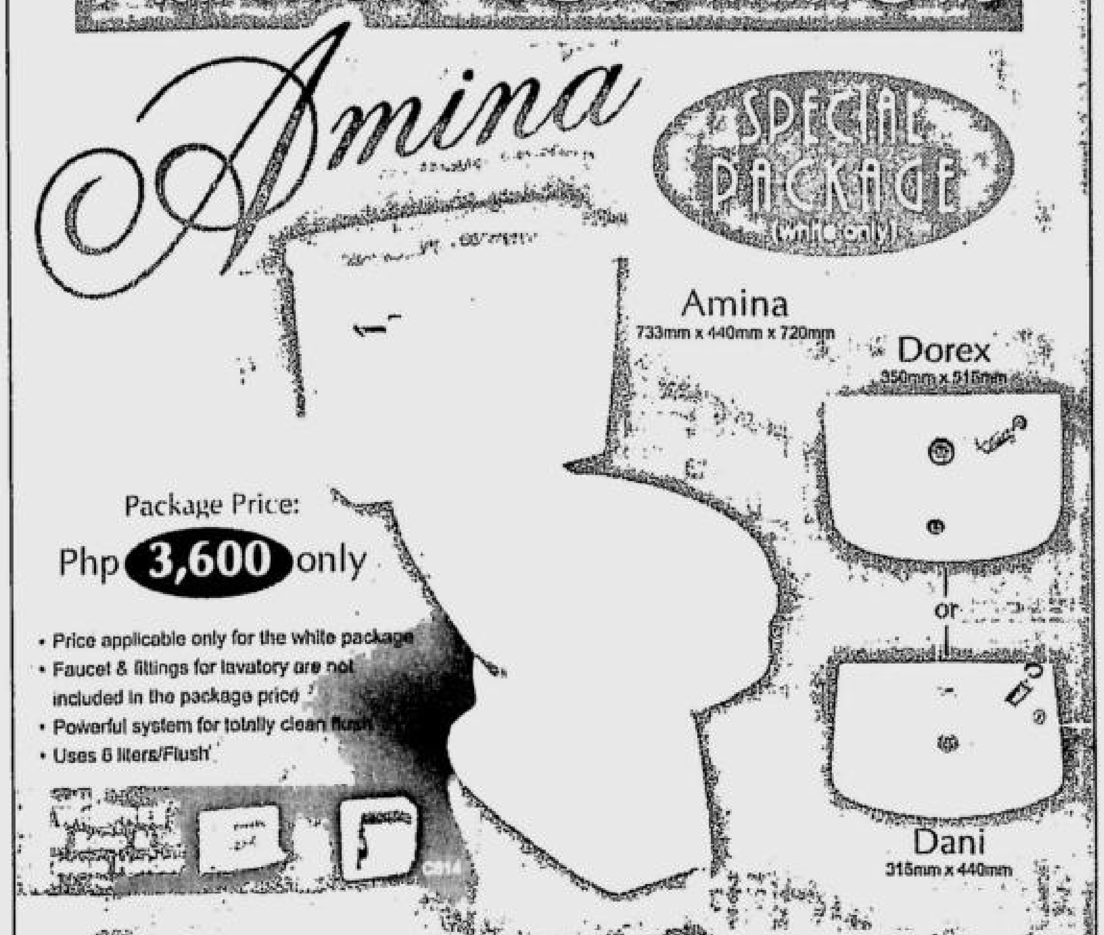

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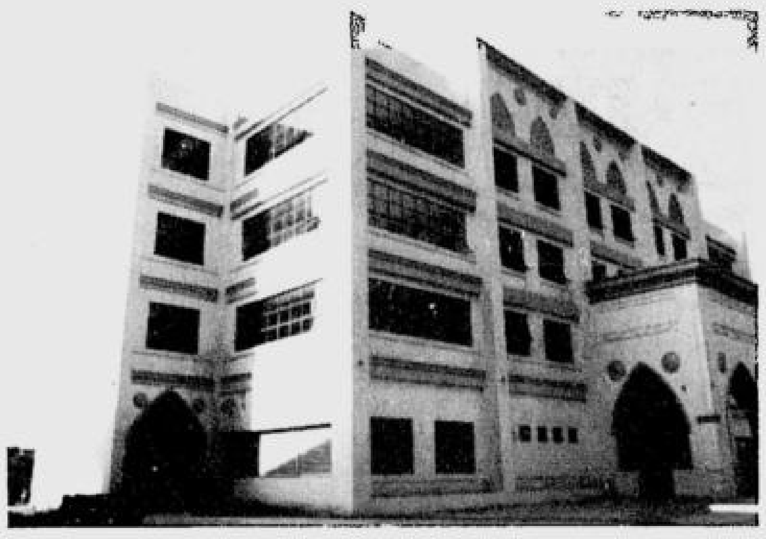

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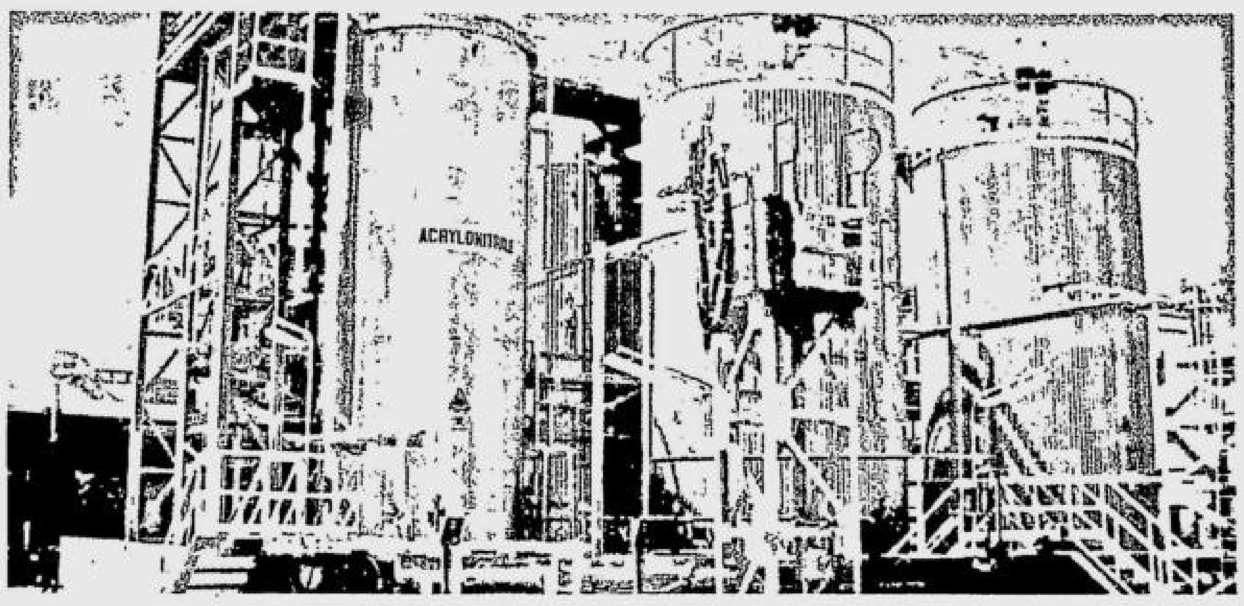

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'Worst Comelec ever'

(From page A1)

delivered late or not at all in certain areas.

"On a scale of 1 to 10, we rate the performance of the Comelec at 4. This was the worst elections ever," said ACT vice chair Benjie Valbuena in a press conference.

Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, president of the influential CBCP, said in a statement that "there is need for the Comelec to evaluate the whole electoral process."

"Certainly, the number of votes that should have been cast but were not . . . significantly altered the results of the elections," he said.

Quevedo cited the case of Baguio City as an example. The CBCP's national secretariat for social action estimates that 1,500 voters were disenfranchised after they could not find their names on the master list of voters.

"You can trace that responsibility to the Comelec. Here seems to be a lack of publication and a lack of preparation," Quevedo said.

He said the Comelec should be held responsible for a "breakdown in procedures" that likewise resulted in the delays in the distribution of ballot boxes and other election paraphernalia.

Eternity

In separate interviews, Arroyo and Monsod said an automated system, which would cost the government an estimated P1.5 billion or so, would reduce fraud and political tension.

With such a system, Monsod said, it would only take about five days to count the votes, compared to the 10 to 15 days involved in a manual count.

"The counting of ballots takes an eternity to complete," complained Arroyo.

Valbuena of ACT lambasted Comelec commissioners for spending more time bickering than making the necessary preparations for the May 14 polls.

The remark was apparently addressed to Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo and Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco, who have been trading barbs publicly.

"Comelec had lack of foresight. Instead of giving more attention to the possible problems, they engage in bickering. There were more squabbles than planning," Valbuena said.

Apology . . .

The teachers' group also demanded that the Comelec immediately release the allowances of around 700,000 teachers who participated in the May 14 polls as election inspectors.

"We vehemently condemn the Comelec for reneging on its obligation to pay the public and private school teachers who served in the May 14 elections," said Raymund Villanueva, ACT deputy secretary general.

The Comelec had agreed that it would pay the teachers on the day they retrieved the ballot boxes.

Comelec Chair Benipayo apologized to the teachers in a press conference, but said "the situation is beyond our control."

He said the delay was caused by the three-day banking holiday that accompanied Monday's polls, preventing the Comelec from encashing the checks of the teachers

"I'm not blaming people. I'm blaming circumstances," he said, although he added that a number of election officers were not able to immediately draft the payroll of the teachers, further delaying the release of the allowances.

"If it is beyond Comelec control, (the commission has) no liability," Commissioner Rex Borra argued.

. . . not accepted

But Education Secretary Raul Roco pointed out that the Comelec should have anticipated the long banking holiday when the DECS and Comelec signed a memorandum of agreement raising the teachers' per diem to P900.

"Every election, (teachers) are time and again called upon to do their civic and patriotic duties. The least Comelec can do is stand by its promise and give the teachers what is due them on time," Roco said.

"This shows that not only does Chairman Benipayo not have respect for the MOA he signed, he has low regard for the teachers we have always relied on every election time," Roco said in a statement.

Not their fault?

Benipayo also passed the buck to colleagues who were already in office when he assumed the chairmanship in February, blaming them for the late printing of election materials that eventually led to mayhem in voting and canvassing.

Benipayo was reacting to Monsod's televised call to launch impeachment proceedings against allegedly errant Comelec commissioners immediately after convening on June 30.

"I don't think (Monsod) was referring to us (Benipayo and Commissioners Resurreccion Borra and Florentino Tuason), because we came in late," said Benipayo

Benipayo maintained that when he, Borra and Tuason were appointed to the Comelec in February, the printing of election materials had not even started although this was supposed to have started in November.

While not naming names, Benipayo was evidently blaming Commissioners Tancangco, Mehol Sadain, Ralph Lantion and Rufino Javier for the delay in printing.

The Comelec chair noted that during Monsod's term, preparations started as early as November so that by April, or a full month before the elections, "they were already looking for other things to do."

But in the 2001 elections, Benipayo said, he, Borra and Tuason had to "practically" initiate the election preparations themselves.

Because the Comelec was behind schedule, "everything had to be done hastily," he added.

The explanation did not satisfy Comelec's critics. "Their work (concentrates) only on elections and yet they cannot do it efficiently," Valbuena said. *With reports from Armand Nocum, Gerald Lacuarta, Marie Carisa Ordinario and Gladys Tolete*

Joker does it quietly, intimately

By ARMAND N. NOCUM

UNLIKE Noli de Castro, People Power Coalition candidates Franklin Drilon and Francis Pangilinan who have granted interviews on TV, Joker Arroyo does his thanking quietly and intimately.

One of PPC's front-runners, Arroyo said that he met many strangers who supported him during the 90-day campaign.

"I've been calling those whom I met during the course of the campaign to thank them," Arroyo told the INQUIRER.

He had made it a habit of asking people he met during the campaign to write down their names and contact numbers in small pieces of paper which he placed in his pockets.

He shuns calling or business cards.

The congressman who ran on an anti-graft platform said he had now accumulated a boxful of these pieces of paper.

"I am sorting out these notes because I have to thank people who have helped and supported me," he explained.

He said those he had called were happy to hear from him.

"They did not ask for anything in return," he said.

He concluded that the Filipino people are clearly changing their view of politics.

"That is the new (political) culture now," he said of the people who are breaking away from patronage politics.

Comelec scores Noli for giving TV interviews

By DONA PAZZIBUGAN
AND GERALD G. LACUARTA

NOW he knows.

The leading senatorial candidate, former ABS-CBN broadcaster, Noli De Castro, said it was "now clear to me" that he should refrain from giving TV and radio interviews while the counting of the poll results is still going on.

De Castro had angered the Commission on Elections for appearing on TV for interviews on Monday night.

Yesterday, he promised to stay away from radio and TV interviews until the official results of the elections are known.

Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo said the poll body will look into possible violations of the Omnibus Election Code and Fair Elections Act.

Benipayo feared that the TV appearance of De Castro and other candidates may influence voting in areas where the election was either delayed or postponed.

There are 282 precincts in Caloocan City where voting only started at noon yesterday.

Special elections will also be held on Saturday in three towns and nine barangays in other parts of the country.

De Castro, a guest candidate of the pro-Estrada Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa, appeared on TV yesterday morning to comment on the early returns which show him to be consistently leading.

De Castro was observed to have talked as if he had already won the elections.

When reached for comment, De Castro said he had no intention to influence the voting public and that he only accommodated the invitation of his colleagues in the media.

"I can't turn down the invitation of my brothers in the media," he said. "There's no attempt to influence the minds of the electorate. They asked me about my future plans. I entertained questions. That's just about it."

De Castro appeared on ABS-CBN Channel 2, and later, on GMA Channel 7.

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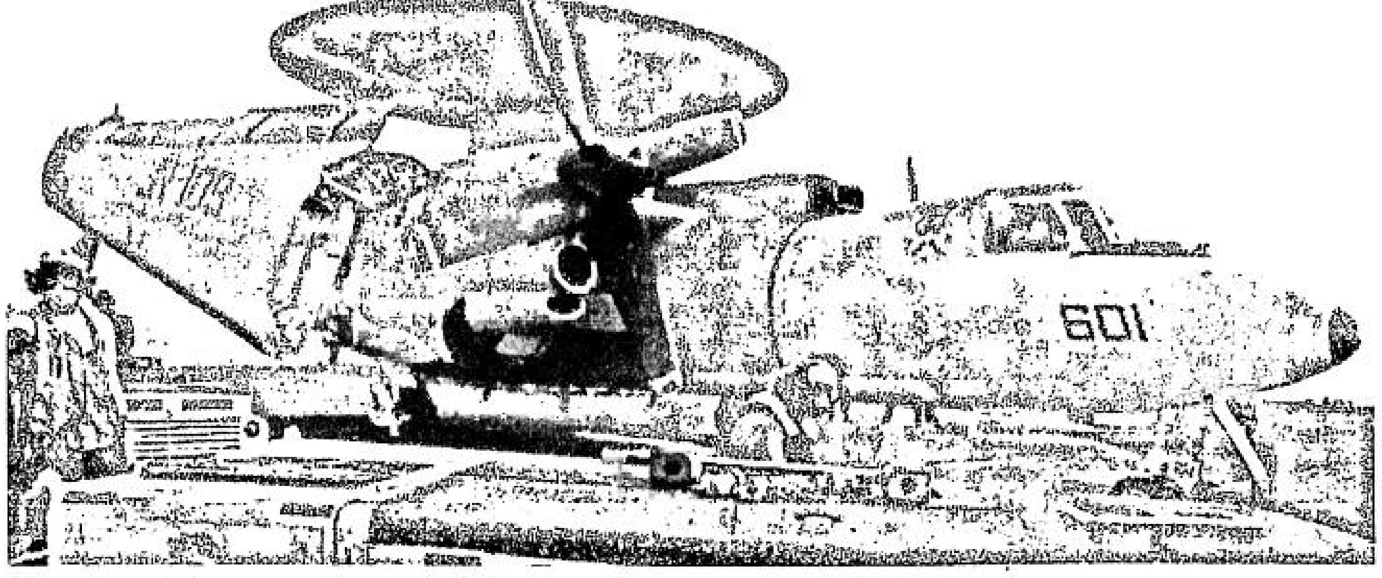
SHIFTING MILITARY FOCUS

RP eyed as key to US strategy vs China



US warplane during war exercises on the Philippine sea.

WASHINGTON—The United States should shift the focus of its military presence in Asia toward the Philippines and other nations closer to potential hot spots such as Taiwan, a Pentagon-sponsored study says.

The study, released to reporters Monday, cites the potential for armed conflict between Taiwan and mainland China as a key US security concern. It recommends creating new arrangements in Southeast Asia to give the US military access to ports and airfields that could be used to support Taiwan if China attacked.

The study recommends maintaining traditional military ties to Japan and South Korea.

A new strategy in Asia would also put the reoriented US military in better position to respond to situations in other potential trouble spots, such as Indonesia, currently threatened by civil strife.

The study says the US Pacific territory of Guam should be developed into a major hub from which the US Air Force and Navy could project power into the South China Sea and elsewhere in Southeast Asia.

It also cites possible new defense arrangements in Japan's southernmost Ryukyu islands, and, in the longer term, Vietnam.

The lead author of the Rand study is Zalmay Khalilzad, who headed the transition team at the Pentagon for President George W. Bush before joining the White House staff on Monday as a senior director at the National Security Council. Rand is a research organization that studies a wide range of public policy issues; the Asia study was done by a Rand division financed by the Air Force.

Strategy review

The Bush administration is in the midst of reviewing its Asia security strategy. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld is expected to conclude that the rising military power of China and India, combined with the decline of Russia and the prospect of reconciliation between North and South Korea, require the United States to make Asia a higher priority in military planning and security alliances.

One of the Rand study's recommendations has already been adopted by the Bush administration: to more explicitly state US intentions to defend Taiwan against attack from China, while continuing to oppose Taiwan moves toward independence from the mainland. Bush created a stir last month when he stated that the United States would do "whatever it took" to defend Taiwan.

The Rand study says that while the United States should strive to avoid making an enemy of China, the US military must consider how it would carry out war plans in East Asia in the face of Chinese opposition.

Among the possibilities cited in the study:

- Extend security cooperation with the Philippines, not necessarily to obtain permanent basing of US forces but to allow frequent, rotating deployments of US forces. That would keep military facilities there "warm" to allow the rapid start of military operations in a crisis involving Taiwan. During the Cold War, the Philippines was a major US military outpost, but the last US troops left in 1992.
- If the United States reduced its forces based on Okinawa, it might turn the existing Marine Corps air station there into a contingency base for Air Force fighter aircraft. The base would be kept in caretaker status during peacetime, capable of handling a quick influx of warplanes during a crisis. Okinawa, 1,000 miles southwest of Tokyo, currently is home to 26,000 of the 47,000 US troops stationed in Japan.
- Arrange for US Air Force access to airfields in the southern reaches of Japan's Ryukyu islands, well south of Okinawa. The island of Shimojishima, for example, is less than 250 nautical miles from the Taiwanese capital of Taipei and has a commercial airport with a 10,000-foot runway.

"The removal or reduction of US forces elsewhere in the islands, such as the withdrawal of the Marines from Okinawa, could be the currency with which Washington might pay for a foothold in the critical area surrounding the troubled waters of the Taiwan Strait," the report said. *AP*

Prince Andrew here tomorrow

PRINCE Andrew, the Duke of York, will arrive tomorrow in Manila for a three-day visit that will serve as the centerpiece of the British Embassy's 2001 Maritime Britain celebration.

The Embassy said the main event of the Duke's visit would be a call on President Macapagal-Arroyo at Malacañang.

Other engagements will include the opening of the Embassy's new Trade and Investment Section. And as a former Navy officer, he will call on the Philippine Navy headquarters on Roxas Boulevard. He will also meet with top British businessmen and their Filipino counterparts for a discussion on the commercial trends in the Philippines today. He will also inspect construction work at the site of the new British School at Fort Bonifacio.

The Duke will also visit the Malampaya Deep Water Gas to Power Project Structure in Palawan. Officials from Shell Exploration BV will give him a brief presentation on the project and a tour of the platform. Before visiting the platform he will be briefed on the work of the Shell Foundation in Palawan in developing communities and protecting the environment.

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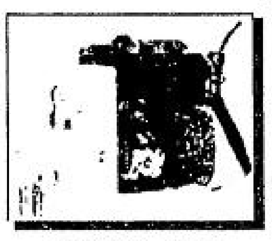

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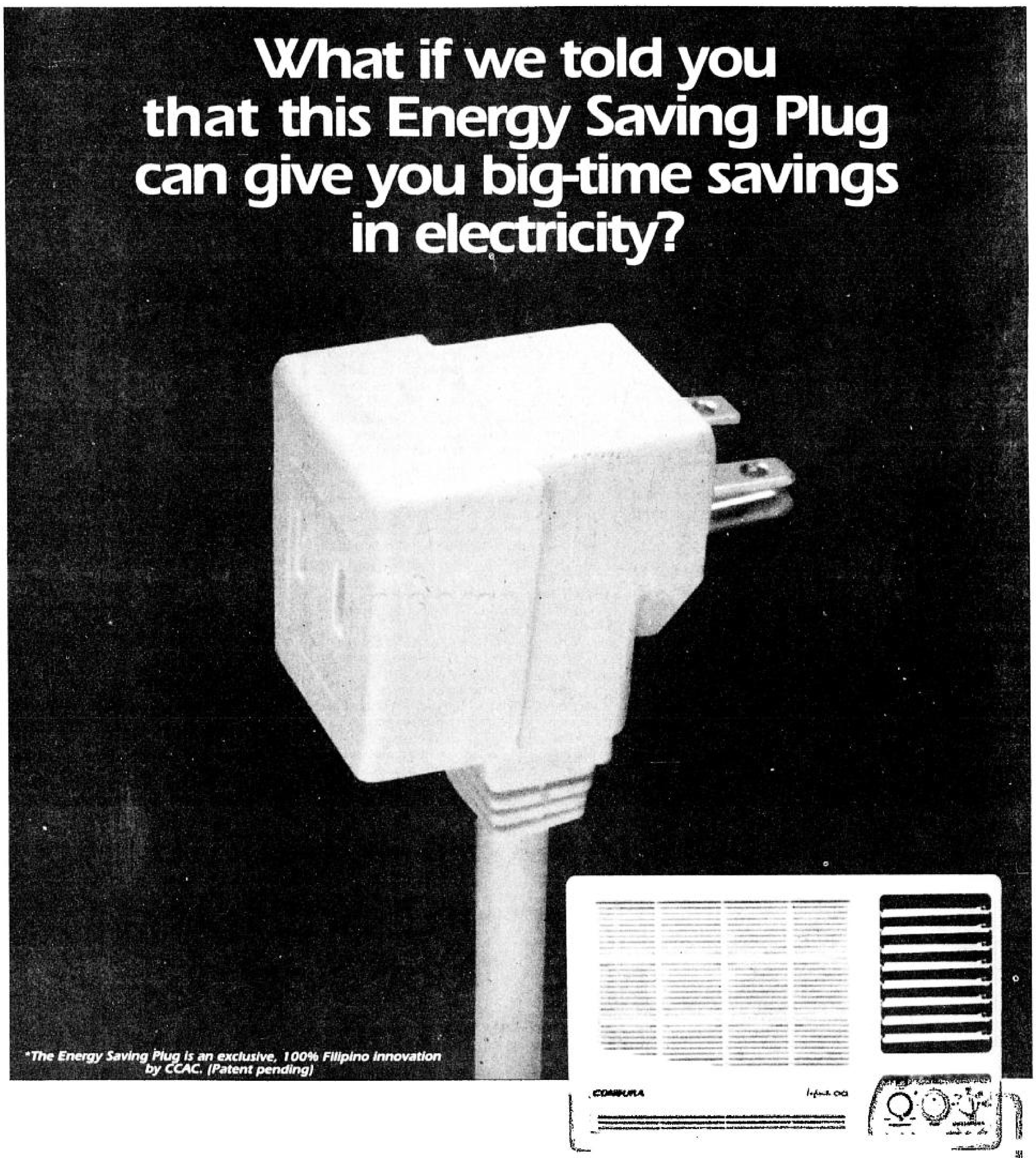
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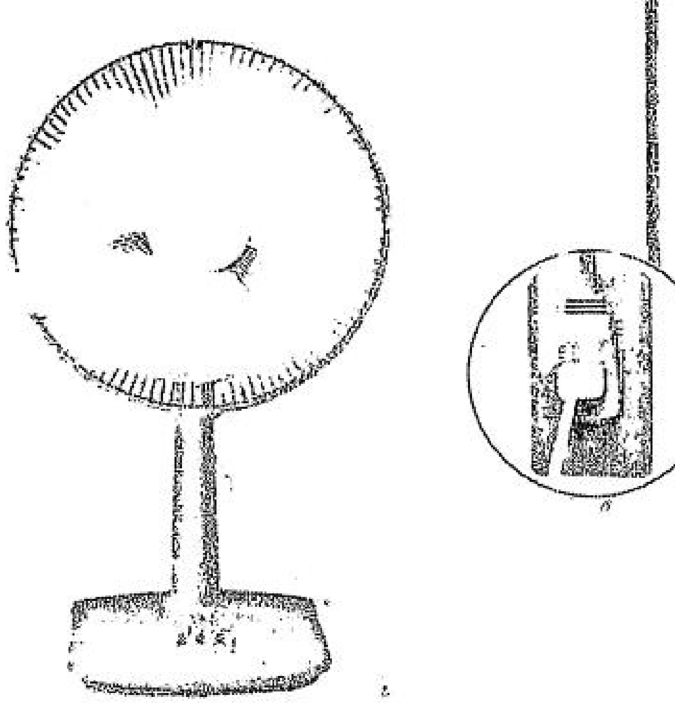

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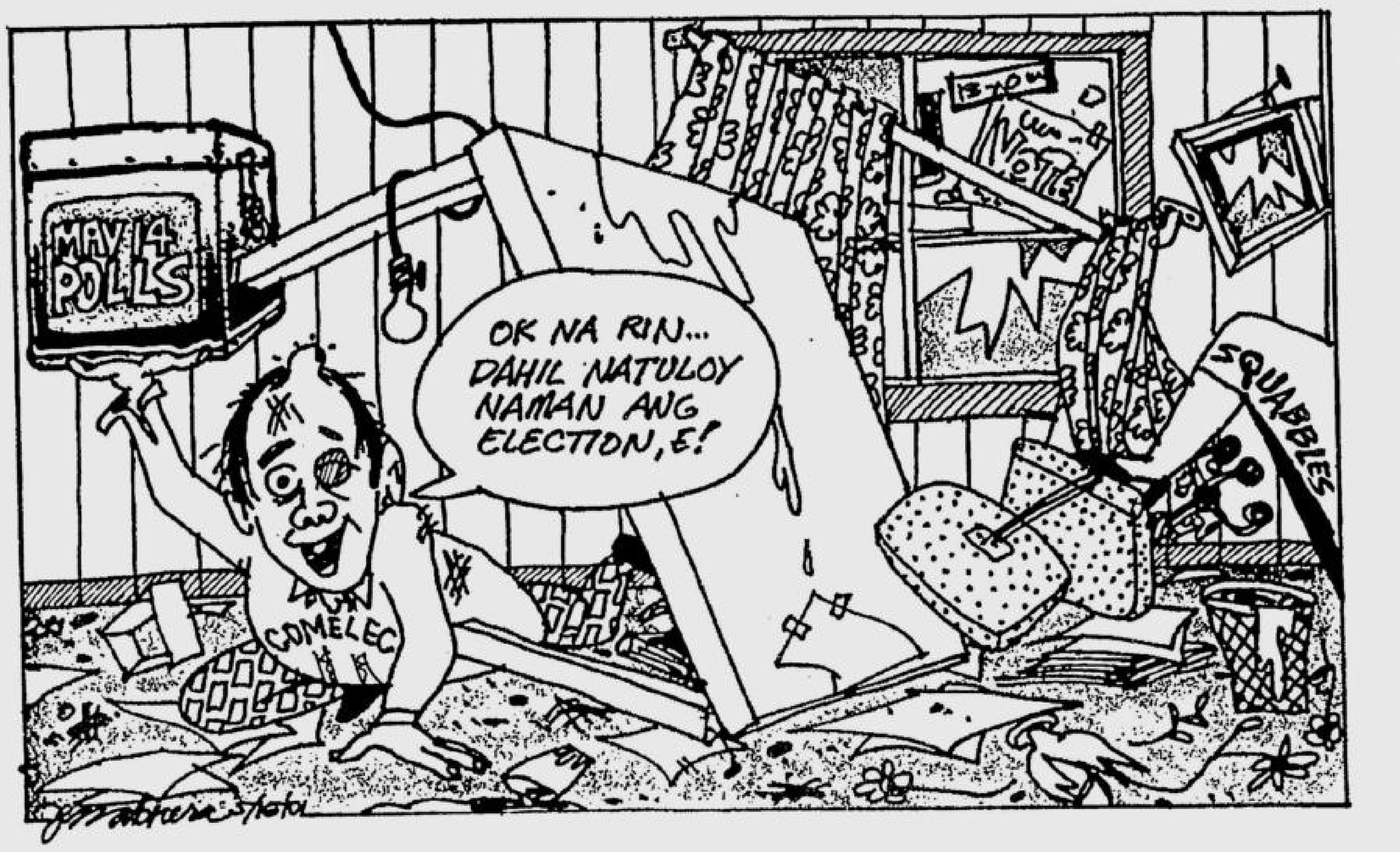
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Hope unfulfilled

EDITORIAL

THEY call it HOPE, and it is the goal of anyone who wants to ensure that the results of the elections truly reflect the popular will. But HOPE—meaning honest, orderly and peaceful elections—sadly remains unfulfilled.

After Monday's balloting, every official responsible for the conduct of the polls or keeping things peaceful was quick to give himself a pat on the back. Chair Alfredo Benipayo of the Commission on Elections described the political exercise as "generally peaceful." That upbeat appraisal was echoed by both Director General Leandro Mendoza of the Philippine National Police and Gen. Jose Calimlim, vice chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and head of Task Force HOPE 2001.

Perhaps they should try telling that to the families of the victims of election-related violence. So far, 77 deaths have been reported since the start of the campaign. That number of fatalities already exceeds the 76 killed in 1995, the highest mortality in an electoral exercise since Ferdinand Marcos and his rigged polls were banished by the 1986 Edsa revolt. And the toll can only rise with the canvassing of votes and the proclamation of the winners still a few days—or weeks—away.

The killers have even raised their sights higher, hitting such important political personalities as Tanauan City Mayor Cesar Platon and Quezon Rep. Marcial Punzalan Jr. Platon, who was running for Batangas governor, was killed on May 7 shortly after he delivered a campaign speech at the Tuy town plaza. Punzalan was shot to death last Saturday also after delivering a speech in Tiaong, Quezon. Their assassins claimed to be members of the New People's Army.

Not since Gov. Evelio Javier was mercilessly murdered a few days after the snap presidential elections has election-related violence claimed such prominent victims. And they call the whole exercise peaceful? Citizens should shudder at the thought of what less-than-peaceful elections would bring.

Still the voter turnout was very high, and surely that means the polls must have been orderly? That heavy turnout, estimated to have reached as high as 85 percent, was not an indication of official efficiency but of the voters' determination to make their votes count. Several polling places couldn't open on time because the ballots, ballot boxes, ball pens and other election paraphernalia were brought in late. In some precincts, like some in Caloocan City, they couldn't be found at all. For thousands of voters, the search for their voting precincts was an ordeal. For thousands of others, it was an exercise in futility. If this is what "orderly" means, the word must have become synonymous with "chaotic." Is there no hope for election officials to redeem themselves? They can—if they can ensure that the counting of votes will be honest. The integrity of the polls has already been compromised by their inability to check vote buying, an illegal activity that almost every candidate engages in. Now, cheating during the counting of votes and tampering with election returns are real possibilities, at least in some places. To prevent any hanky-panky, for instance, the Election Code mandates that the canvassing of election returns should be done as soon as the votes have been tallied. And yet even in small cities like Makati and Mandaluyong, the canvassing couldn't get underway until mid-afternoon yesterday. It doesn't take a genius to know that the longer the delay in the proclamation of winners, the greater the possibility that *dagdag-bawas* operators and other cheats will succeed in altering the results of the elections.

But then how can the Comelec conduct such a huge undertaking as nationwide elections in an orderly fashion when it cannot even put its own house in order? All throughout the preparations for the elections and up to now the Comelec has been divided, with one group led by Commissioner Luz Tancangco apparently bent on blocking every initiative of Benipayo who was appointed chair only in February this year. Long before that, Tancango and company were at odds with Chair Harriet Demetriou over such issues as computerization and how to conduct the registration of voters. How long will this disarray and stalemate in the electoral body remain?

Tancangco has been accused of some very serious transgressions of the law by various groups like Namfrel, and several individuals like former Comelec Chair Christian Monsod. The next Congress would be doing the nation a favor if it would give priority to investigating these charges and perhaps initiating impeachment proceedings against her.

72 people dead and Comelec calls polls peaceful?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

HOW many thousands of trees must have lost their lives to supply the paper for all those campaign posters, leaflets, flyers, handbills and sample ballots. Elections are very cruel to trees. The paper scattered in a single polling place after Monday's elections alone must have decimated a small forest to provide the pulp. Multiply that by the number of polling places all over the country and you would have a natural disaster. Add the campaign posters dirtying up walls, trees and lampposts from Batanes to Sulu and you would fear the extinction of trees.

In many cases, the amount of propaganda materials distributed by candidates is an overkill, in the belief that more is better. It is a waste of money—and of the lives of trees. Less than 10 percent of those materials are read by voters. The rest just pollutes the environment. In the case of campaign posters, no sooner had workers pasted a candidate's posters on walls than a new set of workers comes along to paste another candidate's posters over them. Then a third set of workers pastes still more posters over the earlier ones and so on. On some walls, especially those on Edsa and other main streets, posters pasted on top of one another are an inch thick.

Taxpayers will have to spend hundreds of millions of pesos to remove the propaganda materials from the streets, money that could be put to better use. How many homes for the homeless could have been built with the money used to print, paste and then remove the posters? Perhaps enough for the residents of several squatter colonies.

The government should dun the candidates—at least the winners—for the expense of cleaning up their propaganda materials. That would be only fair.

* * *

Listen to this: The elections were "generally peaceful," said the Commission on Elections.

Peaceful? At least 72 people were killed since the start of the campaign last January, more than those killed in the elections of 1998, and you call that "peaceful"? On election day alone, at least 16 people died in poll-related violence, you call that "peaceful"? But Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo pats himself on the back.

"So far, by and large, compared to past elections, it's okay," he said.

Okay? Hundreds of thousands of voters were unable to vote, couldn't find their names in voters' lists and you find that "okay"? Flying voters had no trouble voting but many legitimate voters couldn't. Even Namfrel Chair Jose Concepcion and senatorial candidate Perfecto Yasay couldn't find their names in the voters' lists. The latter spent election day flying from Manila to Davao and back trying to find his name and vote. He failed. If he loses the election by one or two votes, there is nobody to blame but the Comelec.

There is a failure of elections in many places but Benipayo finds the elections "okay." The Comelec has not performed more miserably than this, but Benipayo finds that "okay."

Even Comelec Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco disagrees with Benipayo. She rated Monday's polls as "below satisfactory."

"How can it be satisfactory with all these complaints?" she asked.

The Comelec should hang its head in shame. It had three years to prepare for the elections but still managed to bungle it. Moreover, it spent P310 million for projects that were eventually dropped.

The reason is that the commissioners, instead of working as a team, wasted their time quarreling with one another. And you can expect that after Monday's fiasco, they would waste more time blaming one another.

Perhaps some of the commissioners should be impeached. The Comelec is running like a wagon with many horses pulling in different directions.

It should be reorganized.

* * *

The National Power Corp. and Manila Electric Co. also deserve criticism for Monday's widespread brownouts. The Napocor even issued a press release before the elections boasting that there would be no brownouts as it had enough generating capacity. In fact, the Napocor is losing money because of overcapacity. It is paying for electricity generated by independent power producers but which is not used by consumers. So, more demand and more consumption are what the Napocor needs.

But while the demand and consumption were high on election day because of the lights needed for the voting and counting, the Napocor and Meralco failed to consider that their wires could not carry the extra load. The schools and other polling places probably needed four or five times their normal use. As a result, transformers exploded and circuits tripped because of overloading. The extra load was expected and the power firms could have made adjustments, but they did no such thing.

Those brownouts were not caused by the candidates' dirty tricks experts out to cheat, no sir. They were caused by the shortsightedness and negligence of the Napocor and Meralco.

* * *

Comments are welcome at asiseeit@pacific.net.ph

Nice homily, but—

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IT took courage for Jaime Cardinal Sin to say the things he did last Sunday at the Edsa Shrine.

"The Edsa Shrine is now clean and decorated again but what about the poor who have been victimized right on this same holy ground? What the poor need is our presence, our friendship, a listening heart, a caring hand. (Here, I translate from the original Tagalog:) I ask God for forgiveness. I ask the Filipino poor for forgiveness. The Church has neglected the poor for a long time, which has caused them to be exploited by selfish interests in society. It is not enough that we give them help. The Church has to live simply and with the poor in mind. The Church must listen to the cries of the poor. We may not wait for another crisis to break out before we open our eyes."

I admire the show of humility, which contrasts markedly with the show of petulance, or arrogance, Cardinal Sin regaled us with three weeks ago. I did say then that I found it truly ironic that the Church should accuse the poor, ragged and anarchic as they were, of defacing the Edsa Shrine. When it was in fact the Church that was de-facing the Shrine in the sense of robbing it of faces. When it was in fact the Church that was falling into the fetish of seeing holiness in metal and concrete and not in flesh and blood. Cardinal Sin's public act of contrition helps to repair the harm. It helps at least to stop the public from conjuring in their minds the image of friars who are deaf to the Indios' entreaties that Cardinal Sin's previous vituperations sparked.

I admire the humility, but I do not know that I buy the thoughts contained in that apology completely. I am allergic to paternalism as a general principle. And though I know that bishops naturally refer to themselves as "*ama*," or father—even Bishop Julio Labayan, who has built a genuine Church of the Poor in the Infanta, Quezon Prelature, does so—I remain monumentally bothered by it. Especially since Cardinal Sin is not using it in a predominantly metaphorical sense.

That is obvious from his asking for forgiveness from the poor for having neglected them like a truant father. And that is obvious from his repeated references to the poor being victimized by the opportunistic elements of society as a result of that neglect. The implications of those statements are that the poor are little more than children who need constant help and guidance. They cannot think for themselves, or should not be trusted when they try to. You do not help and guide them, like a good father, and they will naturally fall into evil company. Which was presumably what "Edsa III" represented: It was a case of children being led by malcontented Pied Pipers straight into the sewers. For which the parent, or guardian, who really should have been looking out for them is now asking for their forgiveness, vowing never to look the other way again.

The humility is great, as I've said, but not so the nature of the apology. Of course "Edsa III" was also a case of the poor being led astray by false prophets, of their grievances being exploited by selfish interests. But to reduce it to nothing more than that is to miss the point. Beyond expressions of undying loyalty to Erap, the poor were trying to say something at "Edsa III," something vital about their plight and what they wanted done about it. They were not a mindless mass, however their way of expressing themselves was often aberrant and bizarre—above all, their identification of Erap as one of their own. There is method in that madness. To reduce the poor that flocked at "Edsa III" to children who could simply be swayed this way and that is to see only their madness and not their method.

I've always thought that the Erap factor there is not unlike some of the stories we read about in tabloids. "*Nagpatayan dahil sa bente-singko* (They killed each other for a quarter)," screams a headline, and goes on to tell about two people who quarreled over a 25-centavo change and knifed each other to death. The real cause of the fight in fact goes beyond the intrinsic value of the 25 centavos to the frustration and anger and proneness to violence, apart from the machismo ("*nakakalalaki ka*"), the wretched of the earth feel every day, which makes them a powder keg waiting to explode. To say that the poor flocked to "Edsa III" simply because they value Erap like life itself is to say that the poor kill each other routinely because they value life itself only like a quarter. It is to see the external manifestation but miss the underlying premises.

I would hear later from a member of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines that the Church in general and Cardinal Sin in particular have been under fire lately from the poor. Poor parishioners have told their priests that they have gone to Sunday Mass as a matter of obligation and not as a matter of praise. They are still pissed off by what Cardinal Sin said about them, or their brethren who presumably desecrated the Edsa Shrine. Cardinal Sin's act of contrition does repair the harm, as I've said, but I don't know that it succeeds entirely in righting wrongs.

The depiction of the throng at "Edsa III" as wayward children continues to deface Edsa, or the bigger shrine, which is the nation itself, by robbing it of faces and putting masks in their place. The mask of a lost flock, the mask of a bovine herd, the mask of innocent, or ignorant, folk who may not be listened to seriously but only humored and led. It is a very patronizing view of the very real, flesh-and-blood, people who went to "Edsa III" with hunger in their bellies and anger in their hearts.

The true apology would have been: "The Edsa Shrine is now clean and decorated again, but if anything made it dirty and bare, it was not the poor that came here with bare feet and dirty laundry but our dirty thoughts and bare snobbery. What the poor need is for us to see them, hear them, smell them, taste them, feel them. I ask God for forgiveness. I ask the poor for forgiveness. The Church has not listened to the poor for a long time, which has caused them to rebel against heaven as much as against earth. It is not enough that we give them alms. The Church—and government—must learn to live with them and among them. We must listen to the cries of the poor—and hear what they are saying. Before we can lead, we must follow. Before we can teach, we must learn. Before we can guide, we must know the way."

I do not see that that is too much to ask. Jesus Christ himself went on to wash the feet of his disciples, which is as humbly as anyone can prostrate himself. Which is as closest to the ground as anyone can start.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia. com

Foul-ups in May 14 polls

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

INTERPRETING the results of last Monday's elections will have to wait for a few days until the results in the Senate race firm up. The interpretation will depend upon how many seats the People Power Coalition and the opposition Puwersa ng Masa win, and who get into the charmed circle of 13.

In the first two days of tallies by the media networks, results of the GMA 7-INQUIRER Eleksyon 2001, the ABS-CBN Halalan 2001 and dzRH exit polls were as different as night and day. GMA 7 had 8-4-1 for the PPC, ABS-CBN had 7-5-1 for the PnM, and dzRH had 8-4-1 for the PnM. The early results depended upon where the results came from and what results were fed into the computers first for tabulation. If the results came from opposition strongholds—Mindanao and the Ilocos region—because they were probably transmitted more quickly and efficiently to the tabulation centers, the tally would show that more opposition candidates had won more seats than the administration candidates.

Uncharacteristically, Namfrel had a slow start compared with its tabulation in previous years. The slow start stemmed from the delay by the Commission on Elections in authorizing Namfrel's access to a clearer copy of the returns. The delay was obviously the result of efforts by some Comelec commissioners to sabotage Namfrel's quick count operations. Having observed elections for many years, I have not seen the Comelec more fractured with squabbles among the commissioners and less prepared to manage the elections than last Monday. Four of the commissioners were appointees of deposed President Estrada, and the chair, Alfredo Benipayo, was appointed just a few weeks before the elections by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The four Estrada appointees formed a bloc that boycotted Comelec meetings, dislocating preparations. The issue over whether automating the election count or having a cleaned-up voters' list called the Precinct Mapping Project (PMP), so dearly loved by the truculent Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco, has priority remains unresolved. To make a long story short, I had always seen the Comelec run with a firm hand by past Comelec chairpersons, and at no time had there been a bloc inside the Comelec that held the chair hostage. The Comelec's division is a reflection of the deep political divisions finding their way in these elections.

No wonder, when election day arrived, many voters could not vote. Their names were not on the registry list. Among them was senatorial candidate Perfecto Yasay Jr. They could not find their polling stations. Distribution of election materials went haywire.

The Comelec has been supervising the elections for decades and the process should have already become routine by now. And yet, in 2001, in the computer age, we still have results written by hand, we still write dozens of names on a single ballot and we have invented many ways to cheat.

So, we should not be surprised that the polls were thrown in confusion in hundreds of precincts or that on the third day from last Monday, we are still in the dark on which count reflects reality—that of GMA 7, ABS-CBN or dzRH. The number of violent incidents reported was no more worrying than the violence level of previous elections, but what should concern us more is the impact of the rioting at the Malacañang premises on May 1. Did such a powerful event have an impact on electoral choices, and if so, who gained from it? Monday's elections were held under the specter of that people's revolt and the conclusive results should certainly be sending a message.

The voting turnout was high—85 percent by tentative estimates. This percentage is higher than the average ranging between 75 percent and 80 percent. Our turnout is higher than in the United States (less than 50 percent) and among the European democracies. One group attributed the high turnout last Monday to a "high level of awareness among voters." This explanation is a tautology and hardly scratches the surface. High turnout, as political scientists would explain it, is a symptom of political volatility and of an overheated political system that is breaking down. In our case, the high turnout was symptomatic of a nation deeply divided by two wrenching events in just four months—the ouster of Estrada and the attack on Malacañang by Estrada's poor constituents, incited to mob violence by his surrogates who had nothing to offer to the poor except hatred of the rich.

The elections were held against that high-tension atmosphere. If there's anything that the early results indicate, it is that the outcome will be a narrow victory. The administration is trying to overhaul a big deficit of numbers in the Senate. The PPC has to win at least eight seats to have a shade of a majority. The Estrada loyalists need fewer than that because they already have at least seven holdovers in the Senate.

The Macapagal administration went on an election strategy to gain a vote of confidence and to solidify its legitimacy. The results will show if it can have the numbers to push through economic and political reforms. Its reforms in the judicial system symbolized by the filing of the plunder case against Estrada and his detention are encountering strong, if not violent resistance, from the poor who were made to believe that they were dying for the Constitution when they attacked the Palace, and Estrada's surrogates seeking control of the Senate.

Even before the government can prove that it can apply the principle that, in the administration of justice, no one is above the law, its political will to carry out this judicial reform is already sorely tested. There seems to be an electoral backlash against the government for embarking on this reform of our political values. If the administration folds under the electoral backlash represented by those who want to give Estrada special privileges while in detention, it might as well declare its surrender on this judicial reform of equality before the law. Then we return to where we were before Estrada's arrest.

People Power: An unwieldy measure of legitimacy?

COMMENTARY

Natalia M.L.M. Morales

NOT many among us thought that the reaction to the successful People Power II revolt would come so soon. The May 1 mayhem that resulted in President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of a "state of rebellion" in the country to nip the forced support of ousted President Estrada by a manipulated throng of people leaves the still fragile government some lessons to ponder.

Admittedly, several issues were tested by the failed mayhem. Principal among these is the legitimacy of Ms Macapagal's mandate. At its heart lies the contention on what constitutes legitimacy. Estrada and his grieving allies believe that their numbers have it. Their line is what one may term as ersatz constitutionalism. Since Estrada won by over 10 million votes in 1998, the psuedo constitutionalists believe that this gives him the right to finish his six-year term.

Such thinking suffers from an inability to accept the fact that what has happened from the time Estrada was sworn into office until purportedly the end of his term had already undone his presidency. He and his followers find it difficult to refute factually his personal and official behavior over and above what legal defense may be erected in his favor. The evidence shown during the impeachment trial had removed much of the moral basis for his claim to legitimacy.

The second issue is perhaps more critical–who is the ultimate arbiter of the claim to legitimacy by the nation's leadership? The Macapagal administration believes its legitimacy has been settled by the Supreme Court—the highest judicial authority that defines and affirms the popular will expressed in national elections. Or under conditions of emergency—the exercise of people power. Numbers must be based on social approbation of moral values expected to underlie the national leadership. Peace and order, discipline, fairness and honesty in dealing with fellow beings—no double dealings in moral terms. These constitute the moral and social fiber on which a sound national foundation must be based. A leadership that measures less according to these standards damages the society. It would be better for the latter to rid itself of what could be the source of national destruction. Estrada caused a large tear in that fiber and must account for his wrongdoings for our own good.

Estrada's arrest may have surprised some of his ardent followers. There are no precedents in Philippine history. But his crafty allies tried to make use of whatever residue they could squeeze from Estrada's thinning popular appeal. But the Jan. 20 People Power exercise made its verdict clear. Whether the May 14 elections will bear this out is a cause for some optimism.

But a further food for thought to the Macapagal administration is the way the outside world tends to perceive our exercise and increasing reliance on the dynamics of people power when a political impasse manifests. Notwithstanding the official declaration of support of the United States and United Kingdom, through their embassies, to People Power II for which we should be thankful enough, the capricious manner in which many of us would resort to the tool of people power may remove some of its efficacy and our credibility as a nation. Some foreign observers already discern a Marxist "class war" outline in our battle for democracy. This, at least, was the impression I gathered when I gave a mini-lecture on "People Power II: Philippine Democracy Challenged Anew" last April 25 at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo. It was the day Estrada was arrested that explained the extra interest in the session. Professor Hayama, whose research interest includes Philippine Studies, rightfully pointed out that the personalities associated with "people power" former President Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos, Jaime Cardinal Sin and Ms Macapagal are seen to symbolize the elites of Philippine society. The poor who support Estrada and who attempted his return are seen to be equal in their right to their choice. What Hayama misses however is that behind Estrada's masses is a pernicious counterelite whose desire for power outmeasures their regard for decency and sound moral values. Nonetheless, one understands the good Japanese professor's point that the first time "people power" was exercised in 1986 to the most recent one in 2001- -a good 15 years interval–the fruits of democracy and economic development in this country remain until now in the hands of a few. In short, "people power" won't mean a thing unless there is an equivalent and clear program of action.

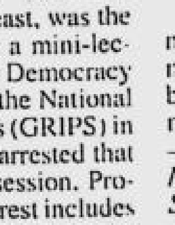
On another point, the implications of a "state of rebellion" are far and many that without due caution may further destabilize the nation. To the nation's skeptics, the results of the May 14 elections may already be a foregone conclusion. Hopefully, the people's choice should stem from a carefully weighed moral perspective rather than pragmatism of the hour or the compulsion to beat rebellious forces. Outside the deficiency of our political system in terms of an absent and credible party system, the bottom line of governance is the values the nation's leadership brings into the exercise of power. These values must square with the approbation of society, and their commitment and vigilance to their survival as a community of norms and social transactions.

Short of these, even the possession of the magnitude of numbers will fail the test of legitimacy. Truly, democracy is not only about numbers but the values that would provide greater meaning to the counting and chanting.

Natalia M.L.M. Morales is professor of Political Science and International Studies at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

The underside of Philippine history

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

NEXT time people file their candidacy for the elections, I must find time to visit the Commission on Elections office if only to see what type of people aspire for public office. Media have played up about 40 people: 13 from the administration, 13 from the opposition and a handful of independents. We have seen and heard those connected with the major political parties, and one wonders about the candidates who never got their 15 minutes of fame. What about the people who were disqualified from the very start because they did not have the funds to mount a decent campaign? What about those who were disqualified because they were seen as "nuisance candidates"?

One day I plan to write about Pascual Racuyal who ran against every Philippine president from Quezon to Marcos and lost. Last I heard of him was during the 1986 snap election when he was finally disqualified as a nuisance. Racuyal who promised pothole-free roads of rubber and a typhoon-free archipelago covered by a giant glass bubble, is definitely worth the academic attention because it is a contemporary example of what the eminent expatriate Filipino historian Reynaldo Ileto calls the "underside of Philippine history."

There are people who present themselves at the Comelec office in Intramuros dressed like Jose Rizal or characters out of a Sinakulo. Often dismissed as eccentrics, these men and women make me wonder whether we are hopelessly trapped in linear, "orderly" ways of thinking that we miss out on genius or at least inspiration. There are many ways of looking at the world and we simply close ourselves off from those we do not understand, or those who do not think or act as we do. Going over the Philippines Free Press of 1926, I was drawn to a man called Intrencherado. A man the magazine described as "a blot on the fair name of Iloilo." Intrencherado was photographed in full costume, complete with sashes and medals, as he was brought to the courtroom of Judge Fernando Salas because he was leading people astray.

Intrencherado was an itinerant preacher who went around the interior towns of Iloilo selling 10-centavo booklets of his own works. At 10 centavos, I think this is rather cheap considering that they promised to show readers, "the way of salvation." Intrencherado called for the establishment of an empire, where he was to be emperor. This was not so bad because he promised a government where everyone received a salary. There were no taxes in his empire except for the *cedula* that only costs one peseta unlike the two-peso variety then being exacted on people by the government.

Judge Salas was lenient and set Intrencherado free for three months if only to prove if he was mentally imbalanced. This was not Intrencherado's first time in a court of law, he had been arraigned before on illegal possession of firearms. At the time, he wrote the judge a number of incoherent but threatening letters that brought him to an asylum rather than in jail. Despite his seemingly weird ways, he was accompanied by a big crowd that included some rather wealthy or prominent citizens who carried an umbrella over his head or wiped the sweat from his brow. Intrencherado came to court decked in jewels estimated at P10,000.

If Iloilo had Intrencherado, there was a certain Apo Kabula in Nueva Ecija. There were probably other Intrencherados in other parts of the archipelago, prophets seen as madmen. Intrencherado claimed he could make the Kanlaon Volcano in Occidental Negros erupt at will! He threatened people with destructive winds of 4,000 kilometers per hour that would destroy everything in its path. In his book "Kaluasan San Tanan Kon Pamatian (Redemption for All When Needed)." Intrencherado gave a deadline of Feb. 4, 1929 for people to follow him or the winds would blow. The winds never came and one wonders how he kept his followers.

Intrencherado promised a Philippines for Filipinos. All Japanese and Chinese would be deported and all Filipinos would be given jobs in "national enterprises," whatever that is. He projected the formation of 560 battalions of labor unions whose members would each have his own duty in industry and agriculture. Yearly gross revenue was estimated at P1,049,605,532, net of P770 billion. His army would have 1,267 generals, 2,534 brigadiers, 6,068 colonels, 10,136 majors, 20,272 captains, 40,544 lieutenants, 81,088 sergeants, 162,776 corporals and 648,704 soldiers with salaries amounting to a staggering P270,333,020.46. All that was required for all this was a measly two-peso membership fee.

Simple folk followed Intrencherado, those who were so low down the socioeconomic ladder they had nothing to lose and everything to gain by joining. If his followers lived in the Spanish colonial period they would be called "*pobres y ignorantes.*" If we came across them after May 1, 2001, they are still called the same thing though not in Spanish. Comments are now made in English and Filipino these days and the sad fact is that the condescension does not come from Spanish colonials but from fellow Filipinos. The sooner we understand the "underside of Philippine history," the better we will cope with the hidden layers of Philippine society.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Yesterday's politics

THE NICE thing about having journeyed quite a distance in time—this looks like an attempt to sound literary but actually this is just a trick to avoid saying "getting old"—is that you can sit back, peer through the years and savor a stream of amusing memories.

Like what I am doing now. Reminiscing about politics and politicians of yesteryears.

HIGH BLOOD

Mart R. del Rosario

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —**Ed.**

The one politician I never tire telling my children about is Arsenio H. Lacson. He was a sportswriter who wrote more about politics than sports in a hard-hitting column in the Manila Post titled, "In this Corner." Witty and down to earth, he was elected congressman of Manila's second district in 1949, joining other beginning, promising politicians in Congress like Ferdinand Marcos of Ilocos Norte, Emmanuel Pelaez of Misamis Occidental, Diosdado Macapagal of Pampanga and Arturo Tolentino of Manila's third district, all first elected in 1949.

That particular Congress boasted of many other stars like Jose B. Laurel Jr. of Batangas, Jose Roy of Tarlac, Ramon Magsaysay of Zambales but Lacson was the best attention-getter of the lot. This was because of his engaging and irreverent ways and sharp wit. In the middle of a floor debate, for example, he would jump over the railing separating the session hall and the gallery and join the reporters in snickering at the antics of bumbling congressmen.

It was for nothing that Lacson was nicknamed Arsenic by the press. For his remarks really stung. In one floor debate, a Congressman Zosa from Cebu made the mistake of cutting off Lacson in the middle of a speech. Lacson squared his shoulder and in the silkiest tone, addressed Zosa whose high pitched voice was his most prominent physical attribute: "I would like to remind the coloratura soprano from Cebu that I have the floor."

In 1951, the mayoralty of Manila was made elective. Lacson, just two years in Congress, threw his hat into the ring. His opponent was incumbent Mayor Manuel dela Fuente. Honest. Popular. Unbeaten. Political kingpin. But by golly, Lacson trounced the champion. Through a combination of tireless campaigning and use of his most potent weapon, his wit which never failed to send his listeners into gales of laughter at the expense of poor De la Fuente.

Lacson's rule was the Golden Age of Manila. The streets were swept clean, garbage was collected, hoods and punks were put in jail. The slogan his admirers coined for him, "The best mayor Manila ever had," was no empty slogan. He was really the best then and, many believe, up to the present.

Reelected twice, in 1955 and 1959, Lacson was gearing for a stab at the presidency in 1961 but there was no way he could have snatched his party's nomination from then sitting President Carlos P. Garcia. He then had his presidential aim resighted at 1965 when he had practically no competition for the Nacionalista Party's presidential nomination. But fate intervened. He suffered a fatal heart attack while resting at the Filipinas Hotel near the Luneta. Think of the change in the course of our history had Lacson been able to run for president in 1965. We would have had no Marcos for there was no way Marcos could have snatched the Nacionalista Party nomination from Lacson. No martial law. No wholesale stealing of public funds. No lowering of the nation's political standards which has spawned the likes of Erap Estrada.

Lacson lived simply and died poor. He left no strings of mansions, no hefty bank accounts. I don't remember seeing him in any fancy clothes like barong or coat and tie. His standard wear were Hawaiian polo shirts tucked into loose slacks. He perpetually wore a pair of Ray Ban sunglasses.

Perhaps the most enduring of Lacson's legacies were his Arsenic-laced remarks about a variety of situations and personalities.

During a party convention, a group of reporters met with him to get his reaction to statements made by some candidates.

"Mayor, according to Congressman Reyes, he is a dark horse in the race for the vice-presidential nomination, what can you say about that?" one reporter asked.

"Well, you can tell Congressman Reyes, that I agree with him 100 percent. He is dark and he is a horse!" Lacson boomed.

His remark about a certain politician is still being quoted today by critics of this political has-been who passes himself off today as a political expert. Lacson stopped this politician's defiant run against the mayor with a single cutting remark: "So young and yet so corrupt."

Lacson was addressed by the press "Hizzoner," a corruption of the respectful "His Honor." No mayor has been accorded that title ever since. A tacit consensus about the greatness of Arsenic.

What were the scandals and issues feasted upon by politicians in those bygone days? Not much different from those now being raked over by the current crop of politicians: graft and corruption, widespread poverty and more of the same ad nauseum.

President Quirino was accused of extravagance by the opposition. He was charged of having installed a presidential bed at the Palace which cost the princely sum of P5,000 and complemented this dreamland accessory with another nocturnal necessity, a chamber pot, *orinola,* which cost the unheard sum of P500! Both picayune sums, if we go by the standards of the most recent ex-occupant of Malacañang.

Quirino's answer to the country's economic malaise was a program which he called "Total Economic Mobilization."

As the opposition could not make heads or tails of the program, they promptly relabeled Quirino's economic brainstorm, "Total Economic Tonto-lization."

Then as today, the congressmen's and senators' favorite pastime to overcome boredom was to conduct interminable investigations in aid of legislation. When they ran out of something to investigate, the senators engaged in intramurals with a change in the Senate setup as the primary objective. The Senate presidency was a revolving chair literally, alternately occupied by a string of senators—Jose Avelino, Amang Rodriguez, Camilo Osias, Jose Zulueta, Quintin Paredes, Mariano J. Cuenco, Gil Puyat, etc., some of them occupied the position for as short as four days.

The more celebrated cases investigated by the House and Senate were the Surplus Property Commission Scandal, the Immigration Quota Scandal and the Tambobong-Buenavista Land Deal.

The nature of these scandals were not much different from those of the current variety of government shenanigans—theft at the Customs, human smuggling and the PEA-Amari and Velarde land deals.

Administration drumbeaters are pushing for a 13-0 wipeout of Erap's ticket in this year's senatorial race. Is this goal achievable?

It is, if we go by what happened in the elections of 1951. The earlier election in 1949, won by the Liberal Party headed by President Quirino, so disgusted the public because of the frauds and terrorism that characterized it that in the off-year election of 1951, the electorate exacted revenge by voting for the entire senate ticket of the Nacionalista Party. *Bokya ang* Liberal Party.

What was wrong with the election of 1949? It frustrated many as it was thought to have been the dirtiest election in Philippine history. The birds and the bees and trees, the opposition claimed, voted in Lanao leading to the election of Elpidio Quirino as the second president of the republic.

Followers of the defeated presidential candidate, Dr. Jose P. Laurel, were so angered by the outcome of the election that they started a pocket "revolution" in Batangas led by Gen. Francisco Medrano.

Political hotheads there were then. And so are there today. A senatorial candidate who sees herself as the new Gabriela Silang is threatening to lead the yokels from Payatas and Smokey Mountain in a revolution if their idol, the ousted President Erap, is jailed.

Mart R. del Rosario is president of MRR Associates.

LETTERS

RP's last great hope for progress

WE are all hoping that the knowledge economy and e-commerce will make our country progress by creating new wealth and reducing unemployment. I think that the information age could be the last great hope for our country. We did not do well in the agriculture age and the industrial age, we must now fight to win in the information age.

But first we must start with the most basic infrastructure: clean power and broad bandwidth.

We often hear that e-commerce is seamless and borderless. What that means is that anyone should be able to have access anytime from anywhere. Anytime means being able to connect without having to worry about brownouts and dial tones (or web tones as the case may be).

In the Internet world, real time means precisely that, not a second less. There's no time to wait till the power comes back, or till the busy tone stops. It is real time, or none at all—24 x 7 is the jargon for it. That means having clean power 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. That means having multiple redundant power backups, including several generators and battery arrays. No time to lose, no room for brownouts.

Clean power means the kind of electronic power that is stable at a desired voltage. No uncontrolled surges. No danger to million-dollar servers and networks.

Broad bandwidth means the kind of connectivity backbone that could deliver data messages very fast, even with large volumes. Like a 16-lane highway with speeding vehicles.

With the right resources, broad bandwidth is easily attainable and sustainable. We have had recent successes, like when Smart and Globe rapidly expanded their cell sites, which are now probably bigger and better than landline services.

Having seen how good our phone companies are in the bandwidth business, I think we have a bright future with them, but what use is broad bandwidth if we can't have stable and reliable clean power?

First we had jellyfish, now we have plain and simple vandals. I believe that the only way for us to win in the information age is to pay attention to the basics. If we cannot play the basics right, it will be difficult to advance.

Too bad we do not enjoy the benefits of clean and cheap nuclear energy because we feared that we could not prevent accidents. We are already suffering for not having nuclear energy, why are we still suffering for having fuel-based energy? Why are we still unable to prevent accidents?

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Locators are coming in even with our power and bandwidth problems. Imagine what would happen if we could do the basics right. Imagine if we could offer quality manpower, broad bandwidth and clean power all in one package. Our productivity will not only zoom up, unemployment will also plummet and—who knows?—poverty could be reduced to a single digit.—**RAMON IKE V. SEÑERES, director general, National Computer Center, Carlos P. Garcia Avenue, UP Diliman, Quezon City**

Use of excessive force by the administration

THIS letter refers to your editorial last May 4, in which you criticized Ricardo "Dong" Puno Jr. for commenting that the Macapagal administration's response to quell the pro-Estrada protests was like "using a howitzer to kill a fly."

Puno made the analogy in response to the excessive use of force by law enforcement authorities on several protesters at Mendiola and the government's decision to place Metro Manila under a state of rebellion, which led to the warrantless arrest and arbitrary detention of opposition leaders and the curtailment of the people's right to peaceful assembly. This was what he was referring to when he made that remark. He was in effect asking why those in power needed to resort to the curtailment of the people's rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution if, as it has been bragging, it has effectively crushed what purports to be a "rebellion" against the administration.

Video footage also show that excessive, unreasonable force was indeed used by some of the responding policemen to disperse the Mendiola protest. Television cameras caught policemen beating to a pulp some protesters even after they had already surrendered to the authorities. Puno has urged the proper government agencies or even an independent body to conduct a thorough investigation to determine if certain law enforcers should be held liable for employing excessive, unreasonable force against the protesters.

I hope that we have adequately explained our point on this matter.—**ROBERTO CABRERA III, spokesperson of Dong Puno, 3rd Floor, DPSI Business Center, 210 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air, Makati City**

Better read than heard

WATCHING Alex Magno answer questions in a TV program last May 1 made me ponder how good it would be to have someone like him as the presidential spokesperson. He was able to translate confusing legal matters into layman's language, enlightening his listeners like me.

Please don't take this wrong. I have nothing against Riguberto Tiglao, the new presidential spokesperson. In fact, I often read his columns and I admired him for his in-depth commentaries and analyses. However, when I heard him speak one time, he was stammering and was unsure of his words. This happened during the crucial moment when he announced that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had declared a "state of rebellion" in Metro Manila.

I think a presidential spokesperson should be strong in his assertions and precise in his choice of words. He should be able to explain legal and technical matters clearly. After all, he is not just speaking before media men but also to the people through the media.

Tiglao is a much better writer than speaker. I think he should have taken this into consideration before he accepted the position. Besides I believe his readers miss his column already.—**ROWENA BELMES, Esguerra Street, Tondo, Manila**

Sweet revenge on senators

ON ELECTION day I had the chance to exact sweet revenge (by not voting for them) on some senatorial candidates who were not courteous enough to reply to my letters which contained some suggestions on how to help our country (like a Congress review of the number of our holidays). I guess these senatorial candidates simply threw my letters into the wastebasket because my name didn't ring a bell.

Perhaps these government officials do not know the existence of RA 6713 which requires them to reply to all letters, telegrams and other communications from the people within 15 working days upon receipt thereof.

Why can't these "no-reply" government officials emulate the example of Sen. Juan Flavier who replies to all letters in his own handwriting as well as Education Secretary Raul Roco who told me in one of his letters that he is replying to letters not because there is a law but because it is the right thing to do?—**PAUL R. MORTEL, MBLA Court, Malanday, Marikina City**

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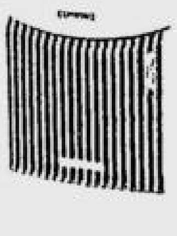

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The WORLD

EU to open diplomatic ties with North Korea

BRUSSELS—The European Union's executive body said it will establish diplomatic relations with North Korea—a move South Korean analysts said they hoped would encourage Washington to resume talks with the communist regime.

The move Monday by the European Commission follows this month's visit by an EU delegation to the North Korean capital, Pyongyang, the highest-level visit by Western officials in six months.

It comes as the administration of US President George W. Bush reviews its policy regarding the North after suspending a dialogue begun by former President Bill Clinton.

The European Commission said it hoped to encourage "reconciliation in the Korean peninsula, and in particular economic reform and easing of the acute food and health problems" in impoverished North Korea.

Talks will begin soon to determine how the 15-member European Union will be represented in Pyongyang, and when the North Koreans can open a mission at EU headquarters in Brussels, the commission said.

South Korean analysts said they hoped the move would encourage Washington to resume dialogue with the communist regime as well.

Secretary of State Colin Powell, in an interview in Washington with CNN, said the decision was the EU's to make, adding: "I have nothing critical to say about it."

Powell said the Bush administration would resume contacts at the "time and place of our choosing."

In Seoul, South Korea's Foreign Ministry welcomed the EU announcement, saying it "will positively contribute to achieving peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and improving inter-Korean relations."

"The EU's decision shows that despite the US stance on North Korea, the European Union is willing to hold discussions with North Korea on issues like missiles and human rights," said Lee Jong-seok, a senior researcher at the Sejong Institute, a private think-tank in Seoul. *AP*

Palestinians mark day of 'catastrophe'

JERUSALEM—Israel security forces were on high alert yesterday, fearing new violence as Palestinians planned mass protests to mark what they term the disaster of Israel's creation 53 years ago.

In the first clash of the day two Palestinians were wounded, one seriously, by Israeli live fire near the Jewish settlement of Netzarim, south of Gaza City, Palestinian medical sources said.

Palestinians in the autonomous regions have been urged to turn out for street protests to mark the day, which Palestinians call Al-Nakba, or the "catastrophe" in a bitter reminder of the hundreds of thousands who lost their homes when Israel was founded in May 1948.

Israeli police and military officials fear the occasion could touch off new bloodshed, and have reinforced roadblocks to head off attempts by Palestinians to enter Israeli territory, amid warnings of potential bomb attacks.

Tension has soared following the killings of seven Palestinians, five of them policemen in controversial circumstances, on Monday, and some of the sharpest Israeli offensives into Palestinian areas since the Palestinian uprising started in late September. *AP*

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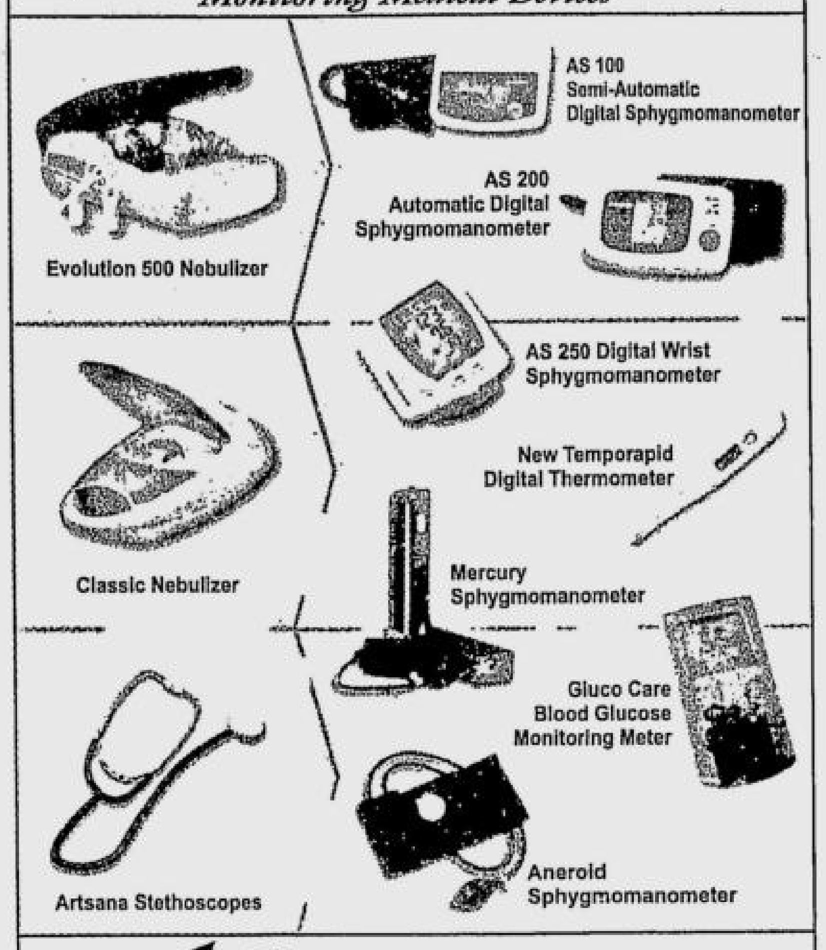
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Princess Masako's baby due December

TOKYO—Japan's Crown Princess Masako is pregnant with her first child after nearly eight years of marriage to the heir to the Chrysanthemum Throne, Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) reported yesterday.

The Imperial Household Agency would formally announce the 37-year-old princess's pregnancy later in the day, the television station said.

"The Grand Master of the Crown Prince's Household (Kiyoshi Furukawa) will give a press conference starting at 5:30 p.m.," a royal agency spokesperson said. "We don't know what the contents will be."

According to Jiji Press, the agency "was expected to announce Princess Masako's pregnancy." Kyodo News said the baby would be due in early December.

The Imperial Household Agency announced on April 16 that Masako was showing "signs of pregnancy," but has been silent since.

Japanese news outlets have also been unusually quiet on the matter since a media frenzy was blamed for causing Princess Masako to suffer a miscarriage in 1999.

The princess is the wife of 41-year-old Crown Prince Naruhito, the eldest son of Emperor Akihito.

If the princess were to have a boy, he would be second in line to the throne behind his father, jumping ahead of Prince Naruhito's younger brother Prince Akishino, 35.

Japan's Imperial Household Law forbids female accession to the Chrysanthemum Throne, although Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said last week he had no objection to the law being changed to allow an empress.

A reigning empress, rather than a consort, would not be an entirely new concept for Japan. *AFP*

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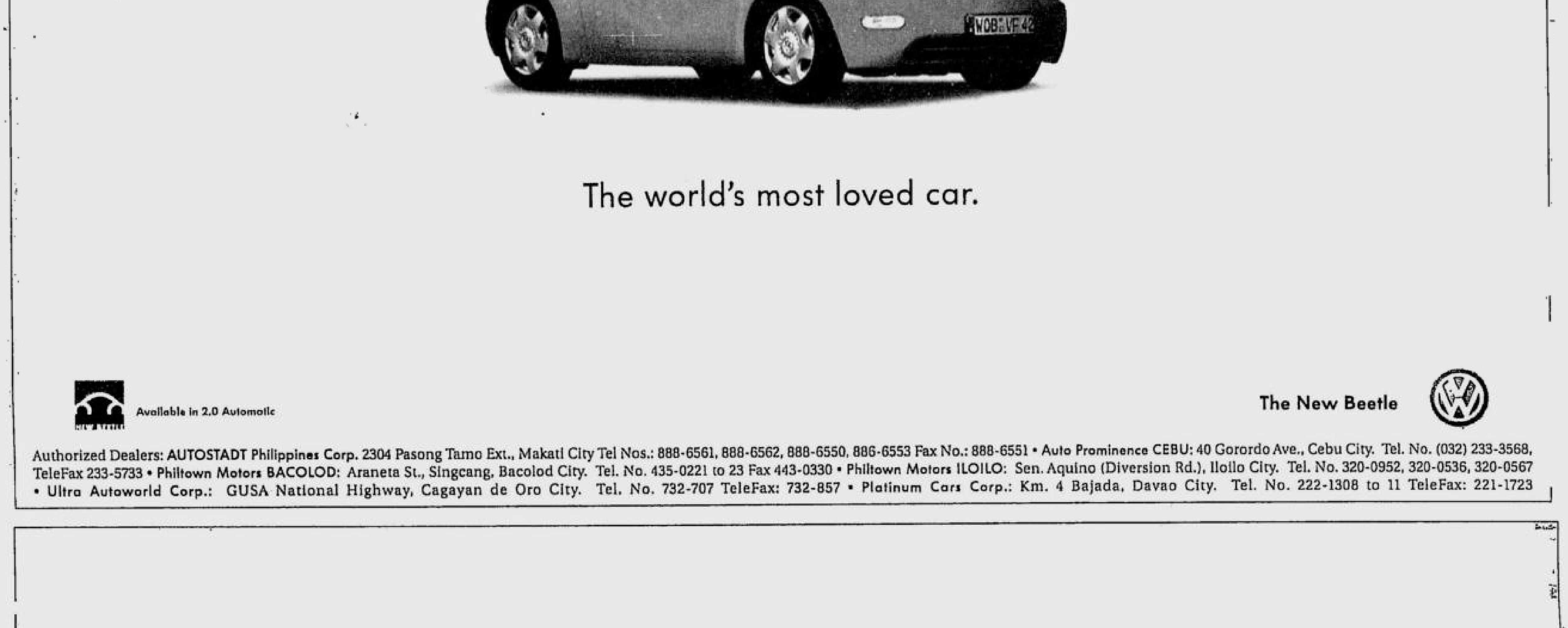

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30 years after, Vietnamese still suffer from Agent Orange effects

DENVER—Thirty years after the US military stopped spraying the defoliant Agent Orange, a new study by American researchers shows the level of dioxin in the bloodstreams of some Vietnamese remains "alarmingly high."

Public health researchers say residents of Bien Hoa City in south Vietnam show dioxin levels as much as 135 times higher than in residents in Hanoi, Vietnam's capital hundreds of kilometers to the north where the defoliant was not sprayed.

Bien Hoa was a major US air force base and important chemical depot during the Vietnam War.

Most disturbingly, they said, some of the affected residents did not live in Bien Hoa during the war and others are children born many years after the war ended, indicating they were recently exposed to a persistent source of contamination.

Agent Orange exposure has been associated with cancer, birth defects and miscarriages, although a direct link to those health problems remains unproven.

The results are published in the Tuesday issue of the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

Agent Orange has long been a knotty diplomatic subject for both nations. These latest results appear during a particularly tense juncture as Congress delays ratifying a trade pact with Hanoi and amid revelations that former Sen. Bob Kerry conducted a raid in which 13 civilians were killed.

But scientists said today's politics should not overshadow the study's striking findings.

"We have a public health crisis for the people living in Bien Hoa City," said Arnold Schecter, the study's lead author and an environmental scientist at the University of Texas School of Public Health in Dallas.

"These are the highest levels we've seen since 1973 after Agent Orange spraying was stopped," said Schecter, who has worked in Vietnam since 1984. "I have never seen children born after the spraying with levels so high." *AP*

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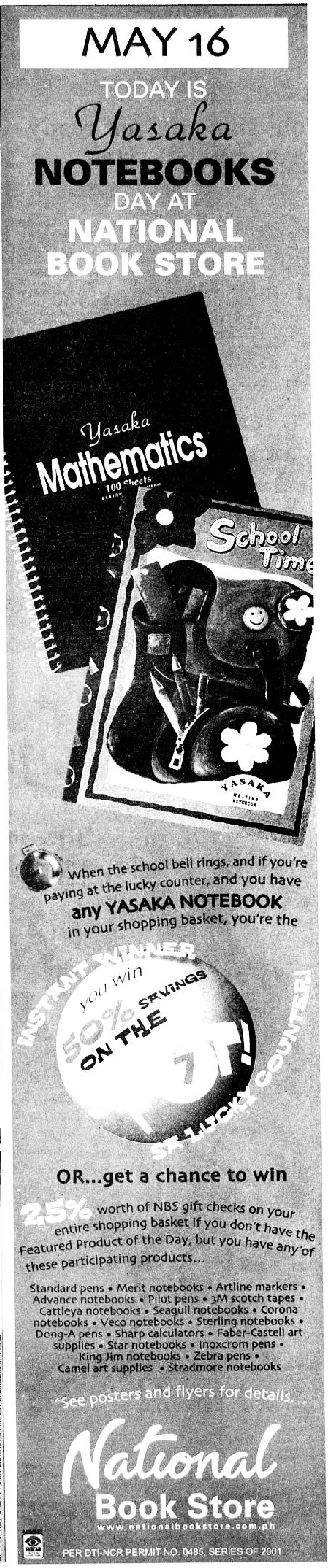

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Polls show RP not ready for party-list system

By D. Cariño
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

TUBA, Benguet—The vote read "Mad Cow" and a teacher at Poblacion here took 15 minutes to realize that the party-list referred to is Richard Gomez's Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga (MAD).

At the Albis Elementary School in Tublay, Benguet, a teacher ignored the party-list vote "Vote for Me" since she knew it was the advertisement for elections of a TV network.

And for most of the towns in this province, party-list votes have come in trickles.

These situations show how voters here have rejected or have become unaware of the party-list system provided for by Republic Act 7941 mandating the representation of sectoral and political parties in Congress.

In fact, Commission on Elections officials here admitted they had failed to properly inform voters about the system.

The counting of the party-list votes has also contributed to the delay and confusion of the canvassing of votes at the precinct and municipal levels.

At least two election officers here have expressed disappointment over the inclusion of the party-list system in the May 14 elections.

Andres Cabico, election officer here, said Congress should study the system and make the necessary amendments even as he bewailed the lack of information campaign to enlighten voters.

"The purpose of the system is defeated because a lot of those accredited by the Comelec are duplications or representatives of major political parties just the same and the interests of the marginalized sectors are ignored," Cabico told the INQUIRER.

"A lot of the party-list groups represent the same sector and an amendment of the law could be made along this line."

A total of 162 party-list groups were entered in Monday's elections.

Elenita Tabangin, election officer of Tublay, said there is a low turnout of votes for the party-list because "voters do not know about it."

She said of the 6.678 registered voters in 39 precincts in Tublay, only close to 400 voted for party-list.

"Obviously, the people are not aware despite a lot of groups listed in the system," she said.

Cabico and Tabangin admitted that tabulating the vote cast for party-list groups is time-consuming since an election return takes 30-40 minutes to canvass instead of the usual 15 minutes.

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Attacks won't cease even after elections

TIGHT security was provided ballot boxes headed for Lanao del Sur on the eve of the elections. It was a prelude of things to come.
PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

By The PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

THE CAMPAIGN and voting are over, but the violence is not.

More people fell victims to what could be the country's bloodiest elections ever as votes started to be counted.

In Tuguegarao City, a policeman was killed while two election volunteers were wounded early yesterday when armed men fired at them as they were preparing to transport ballot boxes in Barangay Casambalangan in Sta. Ana, Cagayan.

The armed men, after the attack, took off with four ballot boxes in three precincts in the village, police reports said.

In Laoag City, an explosion rocked the Laoag City Hall past midnight Monday after unidentified men threw a pillbox at the building.

The explosion damaged a wall in the City Hall, near the area where the canvassing of votes in the province was being held.

Cagayan

Reports reaching the Cagayan police identified the fatality as SPO2 Gerardo Calaycay, a member of the Philippine National Police's Maritime Group and detailed as security officer at the polling places in Barangay Casambalangan.

Two poll volunteers, Zenie Gacutan and Leila Liu, were wounded in the attack and were taken to the Sta. Ana Hospital.

The suspects, who were armed with Armalite rifles and who wore bonnets, took four ballot boxes from Precincts 42-A, 44-A and 47-A in Casambalangan and fled in different directions.

Police were verifying reports that the incident might have been sparked by intense political rivalry between local candidates in Sta. Ana.

Reports said while the counting of votes was going on at the Casambalangan Elementary School, unidentified men stoned the school building.

This prompted the members of the board of election inspectors to call Calaycay and his companion PO1 Danilo Ziuagan, both assigned to guard the BEI members and poll watchers in the village.

Upon reaching the school building, power was suddenly cut off and the suspects fired at the policemen. Calaycay died instantly while Ziuagan was not hurt.

Policemen recovered seven slugs of M-16 Armalite rifles at the crime scene.

Commission on Elections officials in the province said they would declare a failure of elections in Barangay Casambalangan and ballots in the four precincts would be declared void. Reports also said the Comelec might hold special elections in the village.

Police later recovered a ballot box, with the ballots intact, left by the gunmen at the seashore, some 300 meters from the school building.

Reports gathered by the INQUIRER also showed that a ballot box was snatched by armed men in Barangay Balinciagao Norte in Pasil, Kalinga at about 3 p.m. on Monday. The armed men reportedly fired in the air after taking a ballot box intended for Precinct 4A-2 in the village.

Explosion

Employees of the Laoag City Hall, who were manning various offices in the two-story building on Monday, scampered out for safety upon hearing the explosion.

Initial inspection by the employees revealed that the impact of the blast caused a minor crack on one side of the building's facade.

The pillbox hit the second floor of the City Hall, particularly the outside wall of the session hall where the city board of canvassers is stationed.

Members of the board said they were retiring for the night as they had just suspended the canvassing of votes a few minutes before midnight.

The board said it decided to suspend the canvassing because only four ballot boxes were turned in after it convened at 7 p.m.

No suspects have been identified. Authorities said the pillbox could have been thrown from the nearby Gilbert Bridge just across the City Hall.

In Paoay town, Supt. Romeo Espiritu, Ilocos Norte police director, identified the supporters of mayoral candidate Bonifacio Clemente Jr. as the alleged instigators in the Sunday shootout between Clemente's camp and rival reelectionist Mayor Nenuca Evangelista.

Espiritu said the police findings were based on "witnesses' accounts."

Clemente, however, dismissed the police findings as "biased." He, instead, accused Evangelista's supporters of provoking the incident.

At least four people, one of them an Army soldier, were killed and three others were wounded in the shootout.

In Nueva Ecija, Palayan City mayoral candidate Alejandro Fajardo, younger brother of Rep. Pacifico Fajardo, was declared out of danger after he was operated on for a blood clot in the head on Monday afternoon.

Alejandro Fajardo was clubbed in the head by an unidentified attacker while talking with his brother Pacifico in Barangay Santolan, Palayan City at about 3 a.m. on Monday.

The Fajardos were tight-lipped about the incident while the police could not provide additional information on the incident.

Davao Oriental

In Davao Oriental, a barangay chair known to be a supporter of gubernatorial candidate Maria Elena Palma Gil, was abducted in Barangay Culian, Cateel town yesterday noon.

The victim was identified as Arsenio Antonio.

Three armed men reportedly barged into Antonio's house and forcibly took the victim.

Butuan City

In Butuan City, a fisher was hacked to death at 5:30 p.m. yesterday over disagreements on the sharing of their payment as poll watchers during Monday's election.

Reports reaching the Bantay Halalan 2001 center said Moda Kolay, 30, a resident of Purok 4 at Barangay Holy Redeemer, was hacked to death allegedly by his neighbor Jatol Amelon.

Amelon allegedly felt that he was shortchanged in the sharing of the poll watch fee.

Leyte

In Mayorga, Leyte, reelectionist Mayor Zenaida Doria was abducted on election night by still unidentified armed men.

Anastacio Doria, the husband of the abducted municipal mayor, told the INQUIRER that his 58-year-old wife was on her way to Barangay Camansi, a remote village more than 5 kilometers from the poblacion, when she was abducted at around 9 p.m. Monday.

Mayor Doria, a candidate of the Nationalist People's Coalition, was going to pay a visit to her supporters and leaders in Camansi when her vehicle, a Mazda, was stopped by her abductors, her husband said.

He said his wife was blindfolded and dragged to a waiting vehicle, which sped to the direction of La Paz, the town that adjoins Mayorga.

The mayor's driver, Ramil Tabuya, and another companion whom Mr. Doria could not identify were not harmed and left behind with the mayor's car.

Tabuya immediately returned to the Doria residence in the town proper to inform the mayor's husband of her abduction.

"Our suspicion was that she was abducted by (a) kidnap-for-ransom gang," the husband told the INQUIRER when asked if the family had any suspects.

"We are ready to negotiate with them," he said. "I hope they will not harm her."

But information reaching the INQUIRER said the abductors could have been members of the New People's Army. Mayorga and its nearby municipalities of La Paz and Dagami are known to be lairs of the NPAs.

The mayor has also been receiving death threats coming from groups that the Doria family could not identify, according to her husband.

But Mr. Doria said they are not also ruling out politics as a possible motive for the abduction of the mayor.

"There were threats before and in fact, she asked the Comelec that she be granted a security escort," he said.

The mayor's opponent, Valente Adolfo (Lakas-NUCD), an incumbent councilor, could not be reached for comment.

Supt. Claro Francisco, the police chief of Mayorga, told the INQUIRER that a combined team from the Philippine National Police and Philippine Army were scouring areas where the abductors could have brought her.

In Northern Samar, a village official was killed in the town of Victoria in another election-related incident in the province.

Carlos Llanita, 43, a known supporter of the Lakas-NUCD in the town, was shot dead on Monday night in Barangay Lungib, Victoria, about 54 kilometers from the capital town of Catarman.

Police said Llanita suffered two gunshot wounds in the back and head.

The suspect, Jesus Gentiles, is said to be a supporter of Liberal Party mayoral candidate Herbert Esponilla.

Gentiles fled after he shot Llanita, police said.

The suspect in the shooting of another candidate's supporter in Lavezares town, also in Northern Samar, early morning of Monday was identified to be a policeman belonging to the Lavezares police station.

Police said witnesses had identified SPO3 Fiel Genio as the one who shot and wounded Sonny Gallego, a ward leader of mayoral candidate Agustin Chan (Lakas-NUCD). ***Reports from Villamor Visaya Jr., Estanislao Caldez and Cristina Arzadon; PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Cynthia Borgueta and Joey Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau and PDI Mindanao Bureau***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon and Mindanao will experience partly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila HI 35° Lo 25°	Baguio HI 24° Lo 17°	Tuguegarao HI 32° Lo 23°	Laoag HI 32° Lo 26°
Clark Zone HI 34° Lo 25°	Tagaytay HI 33° Lo 23°	Legazpi HI 33° Lo 26°	Calapan HI 32° Lo 24°
Bacolod HI 32° Lo 26°	Roxas HI 33° Lo 26°	Cebu HI 33° Lo 25°	Tacloban HI 33° Lo 26°
Gen. Santos HI 31° Lo 25°	Zamboanga HI 32° Lo 25°	Cagayan de Oro HI 33° Lo 24°	Davao HI 33° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

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PHILIPS

Protests, errors worsen delay in counting of votes

THE VOTING has ended but the conflict has just begun in some areas in the regions as protests started to hound election officials and the inefficiency that plagued the elections continued to plague the counting of ballots.

In Agusan del Sur, candidate for governor Reynaldo Quijada (Lakas-NUCD-PPC) has asked the Comelec to declare a failure of elections in the entire province, claiming that his opponents bought votes.

But Gov. Valentina Plaza dismissed Quijada's claim, describing it as a futile attempt of a losing candidate to hang on to dreams of victory.

Plaza also claimed that the Lakas camp led by congressional candidate Ceferino Paredes also bought votes.

No stenographers

In Cotabato City, the canvassing of election returns from 508 precincts started at 2 p.m. yesterday because there were no stenographers.

Candidates and supporters of various political parties blamed the Comelec for not anticipating the need for stenographers.

As of noon yesterday, the Namfrel headquarters in Cotabato City received unofficial election results from only 87 of the 508 precincts in the city.

In Davao City, about 30 unlocked boxes stuffed with ballots arrived at the city council where the canvassing of votes was being done.

Josie Escalante, a teacher from the Catalunan Grande Elementary School in Davao City, admitted that some members of the Board of Election Inspectors failed to lock the ballot boxes due to stress.

Not the first time

Erwin Alparaque, local treasury officer, however, said it was not the first time that the ballot boxes arrived at the canvassing center unlocked.

In Davao City, the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) hauled two trucks of posters and other election propaganda materials in its clean-up drive yesterday.

Cenro chief Rodolfo Josol said garbage collectors have started removing campaign posters, election buntings and streamers hanged or pasted on bridges, electric posts, schools and government infrastructure.

Protests

Candidates and their supporters yesterday massed up at the Lanao del Sur capitol building, where the canvassing was centralized, threatening to disrupt the counting after the provincial election registrar refused entry to poll watchers.

The Comelec relieved the election registrar and replaced him with another who agreed to let the watchers in.

Jesus Dureza, presidential assistant for Mindanao who negotiated the entry of the watchers, said the election officials agreed to let the watchers in only if no firearms would be brought into the canvassing place.

Election officials earlier declared a failure of elections in Dumalondon and Madalum towns.

In Tarlac, the counting of votes by the Namfrel was stopped after computers used by volunteers bogged down. The counting resumed later.

In Pangasinan, the board of canvassers in Natividad town stopped the counting after a candidate questioned the results in a precinct.

PROTESTS/p.17

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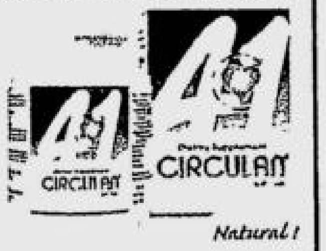

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AT LEADING DRUG STORES
IN METRO MANILA

HIGH COLIFORM LEVEL

Mindoro water well found contaminated

CALAPAN CITY—Some 30,000 residents of this capital city are facing waterless days after doctors from the University of the Philippines (UP) confirmed the presence of coliform organisms in one of the wells being operated by the Calapan Waterworks System and Development Corp. (CWSDC). "The management of (the) CWSDC is taking the initiative of closing the operation of this deep well so as not to endanger the health of our consumers," said Alex Manto, acting general manager of CWSDC.

CWSDC's decision was contained in separate letters to Oriental Mindoro Gov. Rodolfo Valencia and Calapan City Mayor Arnan Panaligan. Manto said a team of bacteriologists from the UP College of Public Health led by Michelle Zabala found coliform organisms in the ratio of "2.2 per 100 ml" from its Deep Well No. 5 in Barangay Sta. Maria Village.

The tests were conducted last month. "This finding makes the yield of Deep Well No. 5 bacteriologically not potable and unfit for drinking," Manto explained. Coliform organisms cause a variety of diseases of the internal organs. Manto has asked Valencia and Panaligan to help explain the situation to the consumers.

He also assured the two government officials that CWSDC would draw up a more permanent solution to solve the water predicament here. In the same letters, Manto also revealed that another CWSDC well, Well No. 3 in Barangay Tawiran, broke down due to a burnt electric meter and pump.

Manto attributed the breakdown to the entry of sand into the pump.

"This happened because there is no more enough water. As a result, the well is yielding sand that eventually corroded the pump," he said.

Manto said the two wells have a combined capacity of around 84,000 cubic meters of water, which represents more than 50 percent of CWSDC total volume output of 162,000 cubic meters. "Effectively, it is a shutdown. We do not have enough water. What we will be serving are those near the remaining three wells," Manto added.

He said that at the most it would take at least three months to repair Well No. 3.

Joel Jabal, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Power outages spread panic in precincts

CATARMAN, Northern Samar—An eight-hour power outage hit eight eastern towns in Northern Samar early yesterday.

Power was cut off starting midnight in the capital town of Catarman and in the adjacent municipalities of Bobon, San Jose, Rosario, Lavizares, Allen, Victoria and San Isidro.

Power was restored in these eight towns at 8 a.m. yesterday. There are 21 towns in Northern Samar.

Lawyer Andrew Dido, Northern Samar election officer, said he would seek an investigation to determine what caused the power outage.

He also questioned the timing of the outage, saying the brownout started about the same time when the election returns were being retrieved from the polling precincts and were being brought to the municipal halls for canvassing.

This was the first time, he added, that a blackout occurred in Northern Samar on an election day.

The canvassing of votes in these eight towns started only when Army soldiers had arrived to maintain peace and order.

Teams of 10 soldiers each were sent to Catarman, Bobon, San Jose, Rosario, Lavizares, Allen, Victoria and San Isidro as requested by the Comelec and the candidates themselves.

The counting in Victoria and Rosario started about 12:15 a.m. Tuesday because Army troopers arrived early. But in the six other towns, the canvassing started only about 2 a.m. because of the delay in the arrival of the soldiers.

In Puerto Princesa City in Palawan, a power interruption that occurred Monday night sowed fear among residents of this city and the entire province of possible ballot switching and other election-related forms of fraud and violence.

The Palawan outages led to panic in the polling precincts that were conducting the ballot counting.

Board of Election Inspectors and poll watchers, however, were ready with their flashlights and other emergency lights.

At 8:40 p.m., electricity went out in the entire city and the municipalities of Aborlan, Narra, Quezon and Rizal.

At the Mateo Jagmis Memorial Elementary School, Barangay San Miguel, doors of polling precincts were automatically closed by members of the Special Operations Wing (SPOW) of the Philippine Air Force and elements of the Philippine National Police to secure the ballots.

Moments later, National Power, Corp. acting,vice president for operations Rolly Bacani, all the way from Manila, explained through RGMA Palawan that a tripped line in Barangay San Jose here caused the brownout.

Later, however, the Palawan Electric Cooperative explained that a generating unit of the Paragua Power Corp. tripped because of unexpected overloading. *Cynthia Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau and Geraldford Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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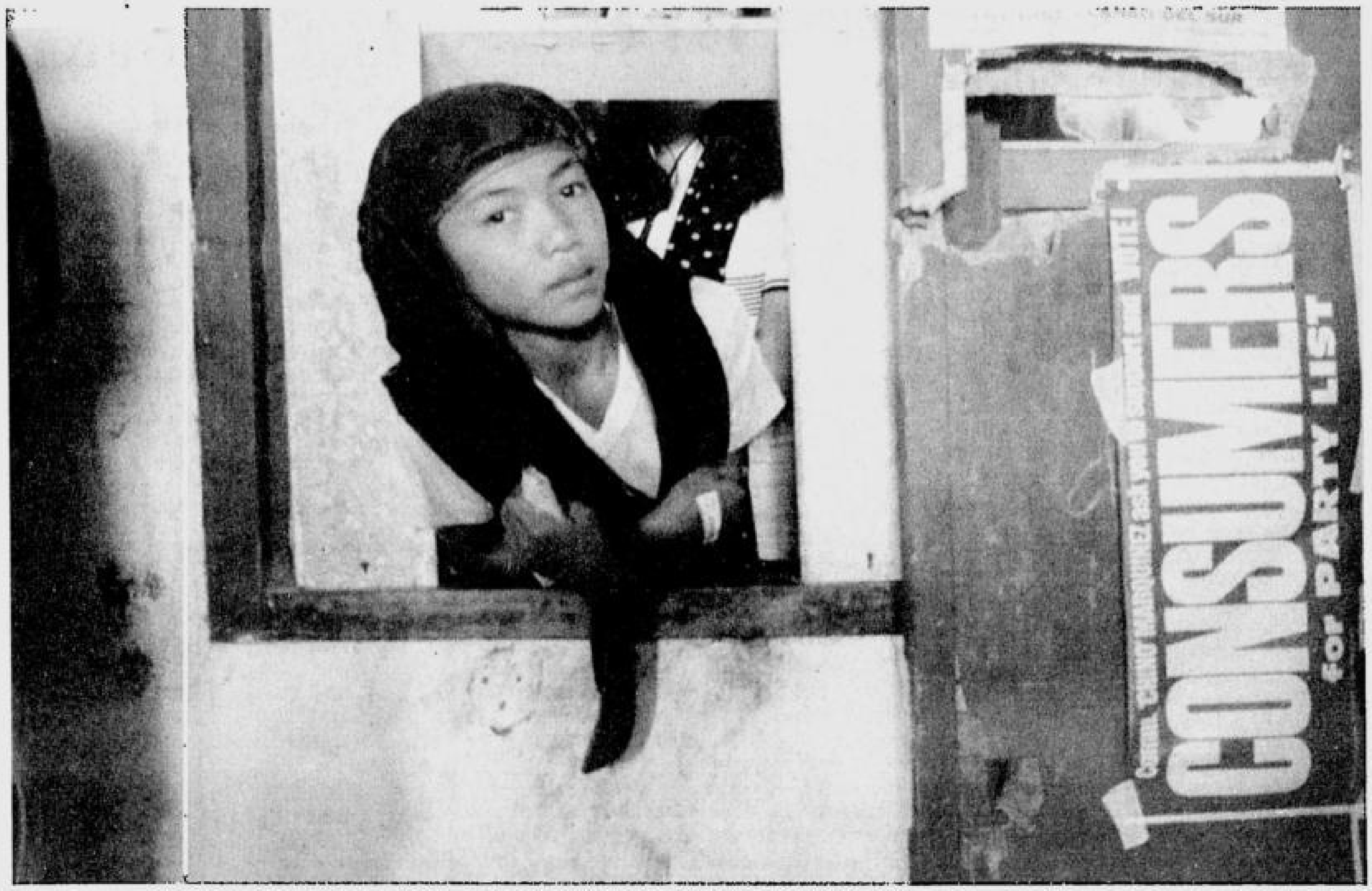

PATCHWORK BOBBY TIMONERA

To some people, the elections serve no other purpose but to provide a seasonal form of entertainment, but to others, the elections could provide materials to cover holes in the wall like in the case of this house in Lanao del Sur.

Sick joke leads to poll fatality report

CEBU CITY—The elections are also a season of pranksters with nothing better to do but to pull a bad joke.

Alive

The church-based Cebu-Citizens' Involvement and Maturation in People's Empowerment and Liberation (C-Cimpel) announced in a news briefing about 7 p.m. Monday that a village chief was shot dead about 5:55 p.m. in Pinamungahan town, 64.8 kilometers southwest of this city.

The "victim" was identified as Rudy Moñaque, barangay captain of Camugaw, a mountain village in Pinamungahan. No detail was given.

It turned out later that Moñaque is alive and had talked to a police team sent by Supt. Antonio Salvacion, Cebu Provincial Police Office chief, to verify the supposed shooting incident.

Salvacion said his men reported that no shooting incident took place in Barangay Camugaw in which the sole fatality was identified as Moñaque.

"It was a false alarm. Moñaque was even surprised to know that he was killed," Salvacion said in a telephone interview yesterday.

Salvacion said a prankster, whom he described as "somebody with an evil mind," went to the Pinamungahan police station and reported that Moñaque was shot dead.

Prankster

The prankster, he added, turned out to be a non-resident of Pinamungahan.

Salvacion said the police had no idea who the prankster was and what his motives for pulling a sick joke on the police were.

But he admitted that his office had been deluged by prank calls ranging from the "ridiculous to the more serious."

"Since Saturday, we have been deluged by reports of armed goons roaming around the province," he said in a phone interview.

Salvacion said the police even received a call informing them that about 200 armed men arrived on Bantayan Island, at the northern tip of Cebu.

Police responded to the call and verified the report. But the alarm turned out to be false.

His men also received another prank report that a mayoral candidate was held hostage in Sta. Fe town, also on Bantayan Island.

Police checked the report and confirmed that it was another sick joke *Connie Fernandez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

MESSAGE

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6 killed in 2 accidents

CEBU CITY—Six persons were killed and about 70 others were injured in three separate non-election related incidents in Cebu and Negros Oriental late Monday and at dawn yesterday.

In Cebu, five persons, including a pregnant woman and her two-year-old daughter, were killed and more than 30 others were injured Monday night when a prime mover rammed into a passenger bus in Barangay Tinaan, Naga, about 21 kilometers from Cebu City.

A drunken man was also killed and his two companions were wounded about 3:45 a.m. yesterday when a fragmentation grenade exploded in his hand in Sitio Molave, Barangay Tabunok, Talisay City, 12.8 kilometers from Cebu City.

Initial reports by the Naga police said the prime mover was overtaking a taxicab in Barangay Tinaan when it rammed into an approaching passenger bus about 8 p.m. Monday.

The passenger bus came from Carcar town and was bound for Cebu City. The prime mover was reportedly heading toward southern Cebu after picking up bags of cement from Apo Cement plant in Naga.

Five of the bus passengers were killed. They were Anthony Po, 28, of Carcar and driver of the passenger bus; Ida del Carmen and Imelda Castro both of Barile town and an unidentified pregnant woman and her two-year-old daughter.

Thirty-eight others were injured, including Pedro Jepuit, 29, the driver of the prime mover. The injured were brought to the different hospitals in Cebu City.

SPO4 Eugeniano Alfante, Naga police operations chief, said charges of reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide and physical injuries would be filed against Jepuit before a municipal trial court in Naga.

In Talisay, Roldan Racaza of Sitio Kuadra, Barangay Lagtang, Talisay, was killed on the spot when a fragmentation grenade went off while he was holding it.

A report received by the Cebu Provincial Police Office (CPPO) showed that Racaza and his two companions, all reportedly drunk, had a heated argument over a drug problem.

The report said Racaza got hold of a grenade and removed its safety pin. Seconds later, the grenade went off in his hand.

His two companions were injured. They were Nanette Alferez, 35, of Barangay Tabunok, and Aljun de la Cerna, of Sitio Molave.

Supt. Antonio Salvacion, CPPO director, said Racaza's brother, a policeman, went to the Talisay police station shortly before midnight on Monday to seek assistance because of a family problem involving Roldan.

He said policemen immediately went to the Racaza residence but Roldan was no longer there.

Apparently, Salvacion said Roldan met with Alferez and De la Cerna and the three decided to drown their problems in liquor.

In Negros Oriental, some 30 poll watchers, voters and hitchhikers from Barangay Jugno in Amlan town were rushed to hospitals in Dumaguete City late Monday after the truck they were riding in fell off a wooden bridge in Jugno, Amlan shortly past 4 p.m.

The truck, owned by Amlan Councilor Max Maceda, was following an ambulance that was carrying ballot boxes from Barangay Jugno to the town proper of Amlan when the wooden bridge collapsed, sending the truck falling 12 feet into a creek.

Some of the victims who were brought to Dumaguete, some 59.4 kilometers from Amlan, were identified as Winnie Bantoto, Marissa Matias, Joel Silorio, Archie Geronila, Sonny Siglos, Archie Salatandre, Alexander Bulgado, Gladys Ramirez and Emilyn Rebutazo. *Connie Fernandez and Alex Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Protests . . .

(from page 15)

On seeing the supporters of candidate Janet Zaragosa at the municipal building, where the counting was being held, the board of election inspectors stopped counting. "They got so afraid so they stopped counting and went home," said a resident.

The counting resumed at 3 p.m.

In Sta. Cruz, Laguna, the board of election inspectors in a village decided to burn 52 unused ballots in the presence of poll watchers and representatives of election watchdogs.

The ballots were burned following a complaint made by Fr. Larry Abayon, PPCRV coordinator, that in some precincts in his parish, voters were not required to sign their names and some voters were allowed to vote in the place of somebody else.

Joven Cajipe, a PPCRV volunteer in Paete, Laguna, also said some BEI members did not tear the ballot from the portion that should be retained by the Comelec.

"They have also allowed some voters to linger inside the precincts even after they have cast their votes," said Cajipe.

In Victoria, Laguna, some precincts refused to give the Namfrel the sixth copy of the election results.

In some cases in the town, election watchdog representatives were asked to help in the counting.

The BEI in a village in Victoria also had to request for the reopening of ballot boxes after the BEI admitted that it had committed errors in the counting of the ballots. The request was denied, however.

In one instance, the BEI ruled that votes cast for candidates who had the same family names should be declared spoiled. The rule is to credit the votes to whoever is the incumbent official.

Jocelyn Villanueva Postrado, provincial election supervisor, said the shortcomings could partly be attributed to the appointment of non-teachers in the board of election inspectors.

Teacher shortage

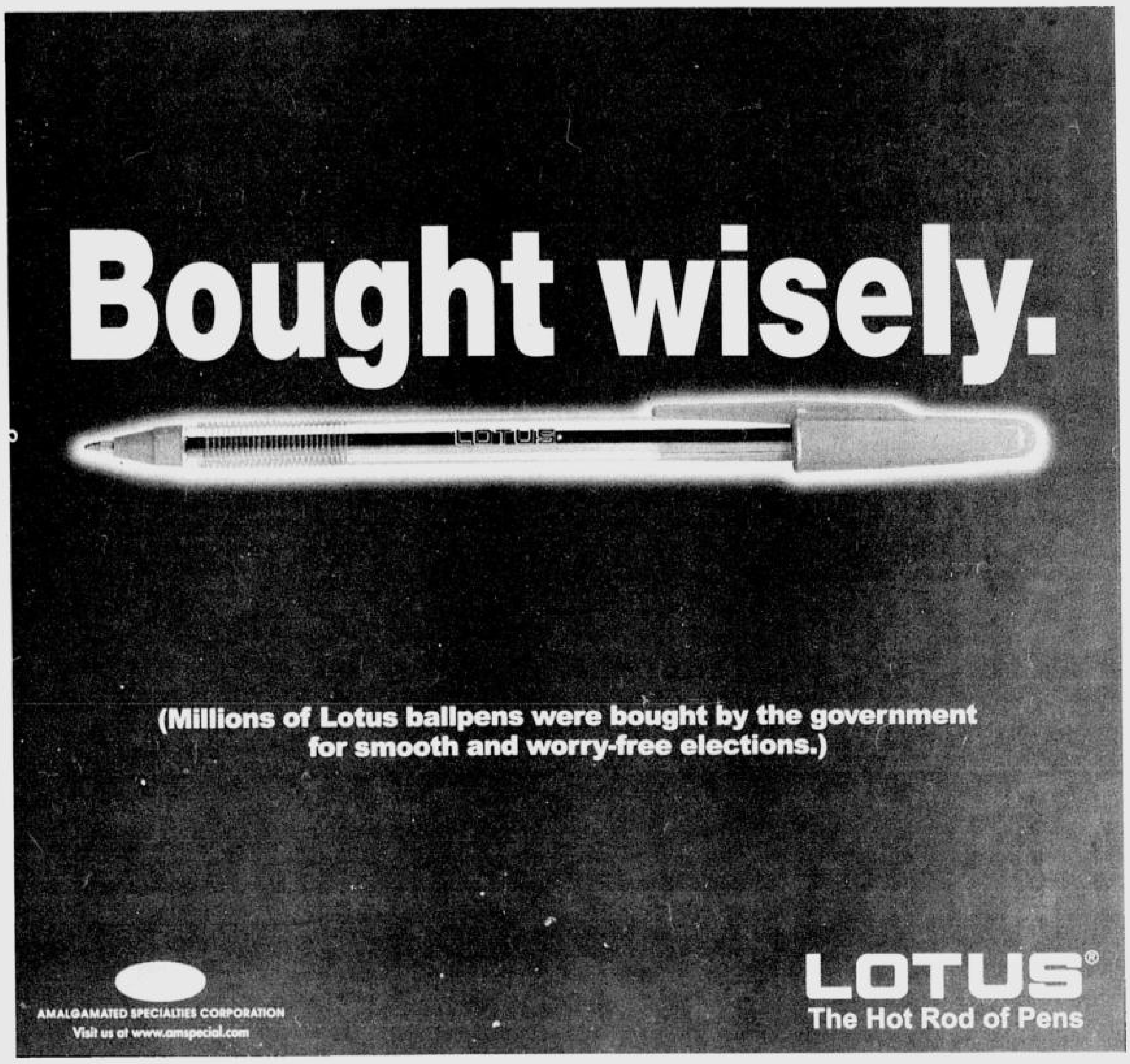
There was a shortage of teachers for election duty.

Jun Alimagno, candidate for mayor of Cabuyao, Laguna, also demanded that the Comelec declare a failure of elections in the town after initial vote tallies showed that he was losing.

Alimagno claimed that at least 14,000 of his supporters were unable to vote because of a scheme to cheat him.

The slow counting of votes irked some people in Batangas City.

By mid-afternoon yesterday, only the ballot boxes of 20 of the 804 precincts in the city had been canvassed, causing agitation among voters who had flocked to the municipal and city halls to monitor the canvassing of votes. *Dennis Maliwanag, Geraldford Ticke, Romulo Ponte, Mei Magsino, Southern Luzon Bureau; Ayan Mellejor, Jowel Canuday, Ferdinand Zuasola, Rex Ortega, Bobby Timonera, Froilan Gallardo, Jonathan Ma, Charlie Señase, H. Marcos Mordeno, Allan Nawal, Chris Panganiban, Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Desiree Caluza, Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and Russel Arador, PDI Central Luzon Desk*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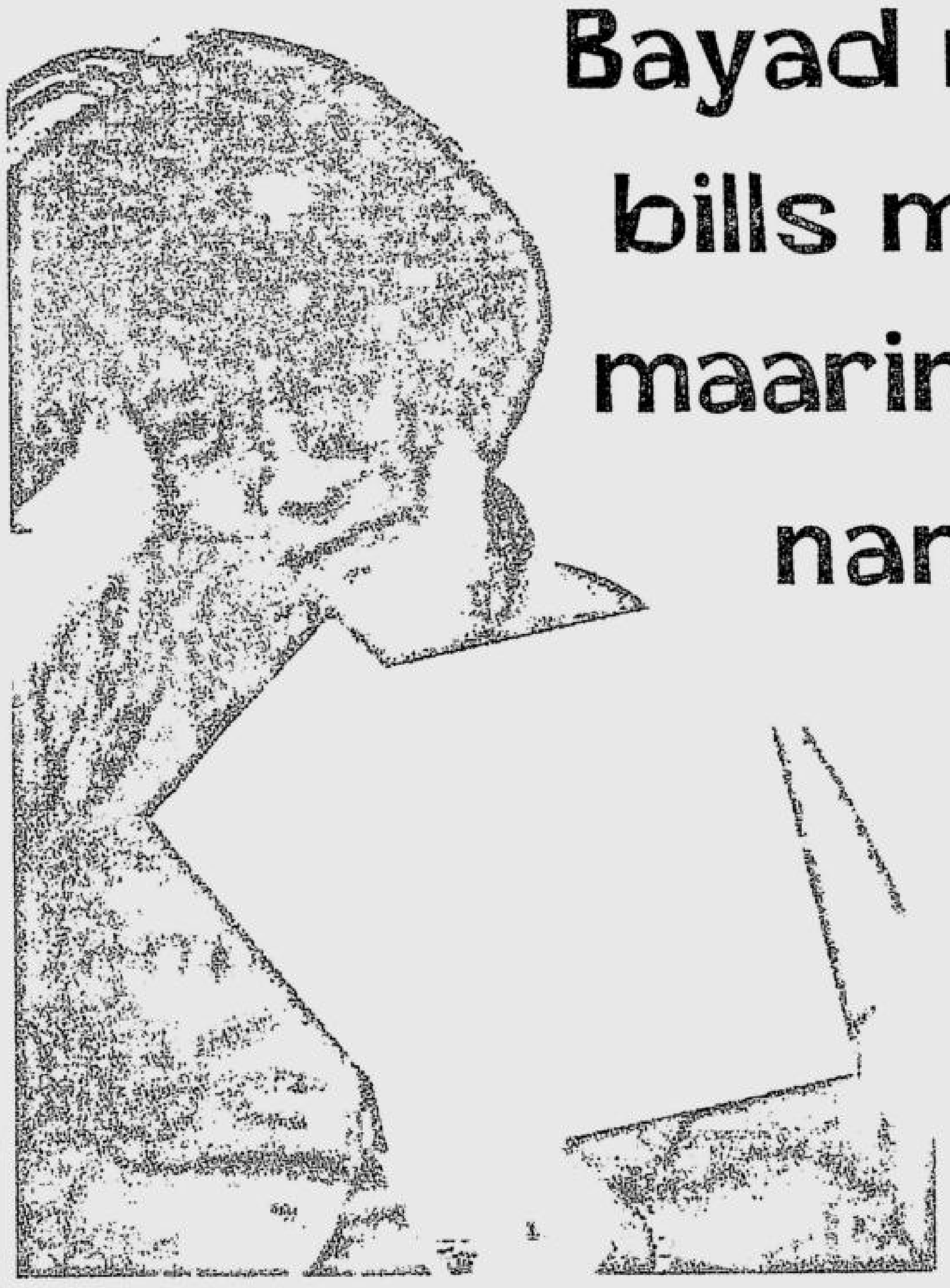
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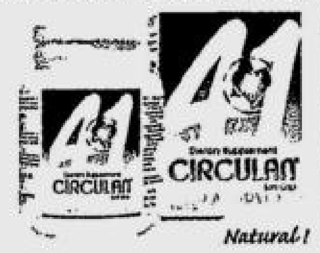

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CENTRAL LUZON POLLS

Beyond the picture of calm

THE MAY 14, 2001 elections turned out to be peaceful in Central Luzon, or so the Commission on Elections and the Philippine National Police in the region claimed, an hour after the counting of votes began Monday.

Why has not the electoral contest been fierce and bloody as it used to when Central Luzon is one of the vote-rich regions with 3.9 million registered voters? When political dynasties continue to exist?

Police in charge of Camp Olivas' regional election monitoring action center found their Monday to be like that.

"Sorry, no bad news," Chief Supt. Enrique Galang Jr., regional police director, told reporters looking for stories around the themes of guns, goons and gold.

"Everything is okay. That's the news," Nicolas Fontelera, Comelec election officer in Central Luzon, said.

At the regional Public Information Agency, reporters of national news agencies pounded typewriters and computers with less tension.

Fixated with violent incidents that usually accompanied Philippine elections, they found themselves deluged with reports of intimidation, disorderly conduct of elections, vote-buying and other last-minute efforts to court and sway the votes—news that cannot be dismissed as trivial in a democratic exercise.

The only violent occasion on record was the clubbing of Palayan City mayoral bet Alejandro Fajardo by a man said to be an aide of Nueva Ecija gubernatorial candidate Pacifico Fajardo, the victim's brother.

Save for this, election in Central Luzon was not as bloody as it used to be, Galang said. It was the same during the pre-election period as the region counted only six incidents of election-related violence that saw two supporters killed and some 30 others hurt.

Election-related skirmishes with communist rebels claimed the lives of six people, police records showed.

Factors

Galang and Fontelera, who have worked in the region since 1986, attributed the less bloody character of the election to various factors.

The coordination with private and government agencies and the pooling of resources, such as volunteers, vehicles and communication equipment, helped create a preventive atmosphere for violence.

Then there's the media that aided in disseminating the plans of the Comelec and the PNP to thwart irregularities.

All 4,048 local candidates vying for 1,554 positions honored the peace covenants initiated by religious groups.

At least 10 towns where communist rebels are present and where political rivalries are intense were placed under Comelec control.

At least 80 percent of police chiefs in 111 towns, seven component cities and two highly urbanized cities were reshuffled before the elections.

While there were no reports on the dismantling of known private armies belonging to politicians or gun-for-hire gangs, nearly 400 firearms carried without Comelec exemption were confiscated.

"*Tutok talaga sa* (We really focused on the) source of violence and irregularities," Galang said.

Fontelera summed it up by saying: "*Walang* (No) massive cheating and large-scale violence. We took a preventive approach."

There's self-admission, however, on the "lapses" of his agency. Election materials were inadequate and their delivery to the provinces was delayed, he said.

Galang said another important factor to this relative picture of calm was the split within the Communist Party of the Philippines in the region and the creation of its rival, the Marxist-Leninist Party of the Philippines.

Sophistication

Because both were "weak," Galang said, their "criminal activities" also diminished.

Both groups, in separate past statements, decried the police for portraying them as criminals and bandits.

Are these all the reasons why the election in Central Luzon had been peaceful?

Fontelera believed it could also be possibly because politicians have devised more sophisticated ways of cheating without killing or without being caught.

Galang, sought to comment on this view, replied in a nonchalant "maybe."

Voters, because of poverty, are more prone to selling their votes, those in the "dirty tricks department" of politicians agree.

Politicians, especially the incumbents, have developed the loyalties of their constituents even months ahead of the election, observed Amy Ariem, secretary general of the Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya.

The group regarded elections as more of a contest of the "power-hungry elite out to stave off the political and economic crisis under the Macapagal administration."

And then, too, political rivalries have diminished in the region where most of the candidates have, without remorse, shifted allegiances, depending on who was in power, Ariem said.

Blurring party lines and opportunism had become the norm, especially because President Macapagal-Arroyo professes to be from Central Luzon, several local officials from the opposition and the administration parties observed.

Established dynasties in the region, such as the Cojuangcos and Aquinos of Tarlac, Magsaysays of Zambales, Josons of Nueva Ecija, Romans of Bataan and the Oples of Bulacan have developed subtle, less violent ways of settling their disputes or tactical compromises among their clans or with their rivals.

The intensity of their "peacemaking" or inflicting violence depends on how secure they are in the power.

Ariem cautioned that having less violent incidents are not enough indications of the peaceful conduct of the elections.

"The fact that politicians aided by the Macapagal administration, can mislead the people through illusions of peace and prosperity is no less vicious." Ariem said.

Tonette Orejas

The last to vote, the first to give PPC a 13-0 win

BY JULIET CATALUÑA
Batanes

HAVING opened late its polling places, Basco, the capital of the country's northernmost province of Batanes, may be among the last towns to close their voting on Monday. But it was among the first areas in the country to finish the counting of votes.

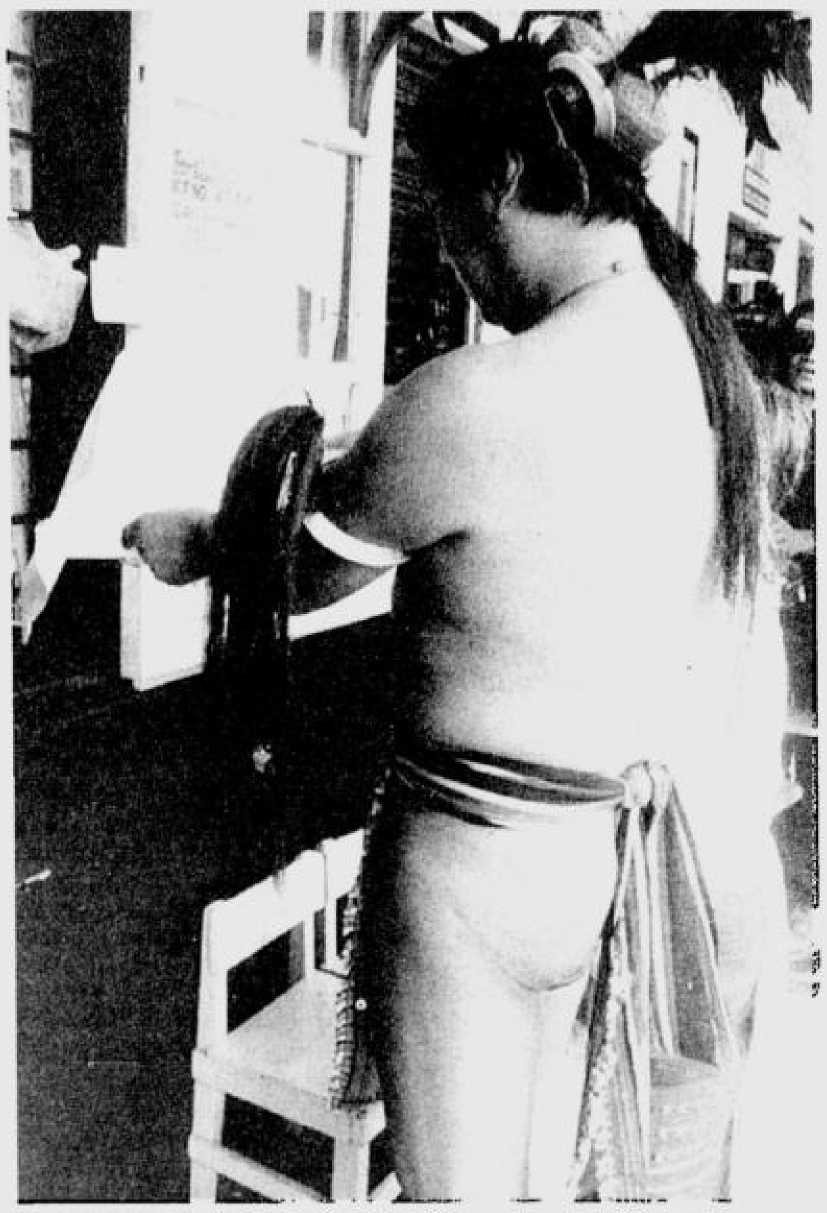
It may also be the first town to give the administration People Power Coalition (PPC) its coveted 13-0 victory in Monday's polls.

Unofficial election returns early Tuesday showed that Basco, about 280 km north of Aparri, Cagayan, on the northern tip of Luzon, gave a resounding win for all PPC senatorial bets, even dislodging broadcaster Noli de Castro, the pre-election survey and unofficial poll results' topnotcher, from the winning column.

De Castro landed 14th in the Basco race with 654 votes.

Basco has 18 polling precincts and 3,388 voters. Reports said the capital town registered a voter turnout of at least 80 percent.

Former Speaker Manuel Villar topped the senatorial race in the town with 1,228 votes. He was followed by Joker Arroyo with 1,215 votes; Juan Flavier, 1,120; Franklin Drilon, 1,106; Ralph Recto, 1,040; Ramon Magsaysay Jr., 1,028; Sergio Osmeña III, 1,004; Francis Pangilinan, 965; Solita Monsod, 916; Wigberto Tañada, 867; Liwayway Chato, 798; Ernesto Herrera, 797, and Roberto Pagdanganan, 707.



FRUITLESS SEARCH TOOTS SOBERANO

Nicolas Cawed, president of the Mountain Province Tribal Assembly searches for his name in a polling precinct at the Special Education Center in Baguio City. Cawed failed to vote as his name was not in the list although he is a longtime resident of Barangay Greenwater in Baguio and has been voting in the precinct since the 1970s.

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

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PANGASINAN: YOLANDA FUERTES,
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CENTRAL LUZON DESK
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PAMPANGA: BERT BASA, JUN MALIG, TONETTE OREJAS
ZAMBALES: CESAR VILLA
TARLAC: RUSSELL ARADOR, RONALD DIZON

Election enlivens lahar town

BY TONETTE OREJAS
Pampanga

ON ELECTION day, Juanito Rivera wore a shirt that, in a way, fitted the occasion. On the back of the shirt was emblazoned "Where you belong: Bacolor" and on the chest, "There's no place like home."

No one else in Bacolor, Pampanga, donned a shirt as unique as Rivera's on Monday. He is not a candidate but the message on his shirt is his campaign pitch.

He is, as he calls himself, an ordinary citizen who, like other Bacoloreños, wants the town's 21 villages, buried by Mt. Pinatubo's lahar almost 10 years ago, to come to life again.

The town did, thanks to the May 14 elections.

Although a series of lahar rampages have sent nearly 68,000 residents in an exodus to seven resettlement sites all over Pampanga, at least 34,910 of them go to 234 polling precincts in at least eight revived villages.

The residents, in last year's census, refused to be enlisted in towns where their resettlements are located.

Lani Tiglao, pregnant and with a 3-year-old child in tow, traveled from the Madapdap resettlement site in the City of San Fernando, 15 kilometers away, to vote at the Don Honorio Ventura College of Arts and Trade (DHVCAT) in Barangay Cabetican.

Like Tiglao, hundreds of Bacoloreños trooped to the DHVCAT, which, as one of the country's oldest vocational schools, reared the likes of the late President Diosdado Macapagal and, as an armory of Filipino revolutionaries who fought against Spain, nurtured many nationalist poets like Aurelio Tolentino and Juan Crisostomo Soto.

Refreshing memories

The elections are not only rites of returning, of refreshing the memories with the rich historical past of the town that briefly served as the country's capital in the 18th century and was Pampanga's own version of Athens.

According to Jose Dizon of the Department of Trade and Industry, the elections also gave an occasion for the "instant reunion for the people of Bacolor."

It has been this way since 1998 when national and local elections were held, according to Fr. Nestor Tayag, the town's parish priest.

Enrico Ramos, for instance, met his brothers and sisters, in-laws, cousins, uncles and aunts and other relatives on Monday.

But the futile search for their names in the lists of voters dulled the accidental get-together, Ramos said.

Many came mainly to vote on Monday, courtesy of buses, jeeps and trucks provided by candidates, both from the administration and the opposition parties.

The practice, according to those who avail of the free rides, does not undermine their attachment to the land of their birth.

Since it would cost each commuter about P70 for a round trip and would entail walking on dusty lahar roads, no one has raised hell over this form of electioneering, they said.

Residents voted in classrooms that used to be part of three-story buildings, sat on rusty chairs retrieved from under mounds of lahar, and lingered on to renew ties with family members who they rarely see.

In 1998, the turnout of voters reached close to 95 percent, records from the Commission on Elections showed.

Voting in Bacolor also offered them the chance to see the ongoing rehabilitation. The municipal hall has been reconstructed, care of a P15-million grant from the Natural Resources Development Corp., an agency of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources that manages the collection of quarry taxes.

In the villages of Sta. Ines, San Vicente, Tinajero, Cabambangan and Cabetican are 3,000 families who decided to stay permanently. The villages have water pumps, electricity, and religious and social services.

On Monday, quite a number stayed on to pray at the half-buried San Guillermo Church and eat *sinantan* (coconut milk boiled with bananas, sweet potato and sago) prepared by parish workers, to talk with relatives or visit cogon-covered plots where their houses once stood.

There are four other occasions when the town bustles with life—All Souls' Day, Holy Week, the day of Our Lady of Lourdes and feast days of saints—according to Tayag.

For mayoral candidates Buddy Dungca and Sticky Blanco, the residents' exercise of their right of suffrage in Bacolor continues to be an indicator of their will to revive the town and return to it when the lahar threat has certainly diminished.

"This is where we belong," Rivera, 55, said as he drove toward the DHVCAT, the lahar dust thickly billowing behind the wheels.

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BAC CHAIRMAN

Comelec warns TV networks on 'trending'

(From page A1)

results in their unofficial counts for the senatorial race.

"Some organizations with agenda could resort to trending," Benipayo said. "But I'm not accusing anybody."

But the administration's People Power Coalition (PPC) and the opposition's Puwersa ng Masa (PnM) are accusing each other of resorting to "trending" in the media to favor their respective senatorial candidates.

In the quick count conducted by the GMA-7 network and AMA Computer School hours after the voting ended, the PPC took an early lead with eight of its senatorial candidates making it to the Magic 13.

But in the quick count by the ABS-CBN network and STI Computer School, as many as nine to 10 to PnM candidates were in the winning circle at one time.

Aside from the TV networks and the computer schools, Radio Veritas-CMN is conducting its own quick count.

Polistrat International, technical adviser to the aborted National Press Club quick count, conducted an unofficial count but only for the first district of Makati as part of its test-run for a new quick count software.

Benipayo wondered where quick count groups were getting their figures. "Anybody could conduct a quick count, but what is their basis?" he asked.

Benipayo clarified that only the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) was accredited to conduct a "quick count," or an advanced unofficial canvassing of votes based on official election returns and certificates of votes from the precincts.

Namfrel started its canvassing of votes for the senatorial race yesterday while the Comelec's official canvassing is scheduled to start today at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) with the convening of the board of national canvassers.

Benipayo said the Comelec would not stop TV and radio stations from conducting their own quick counts and from airing the unofficial results as these would not affect the poll body's official canvassing.

PPC spokesperson Conrado Limcaoco said the opposition might have initially succeeded in its plan to effect "trending" to convince the public that most Puwersa senatorial candidates were winning.

Limcaoco cited the "unofficial poll results" being projected in a television network starting Monday night showing a 4-9 to 3-10 lead in favor of the PnM.

"We saw it coming. They will present a voting trend that shows the opposition taking the lead and when the ranking slips down, their propagandists will cry fraud and incite people to let all hell break loose," Limcaoco said in a statement.

He said the scheme was being carried out using a "manipulated data generated by a tallying system designed by programmers from a computer school owned by an Estrada crony."

Limcaoco declined to name the computer school and the television network, but he was apparently referring to the quick count being conducted by the ABS-CBN network and STI computer school.

The INQUIRER called up David Jude Sta. Ana, ABS-CBN news director, for his side. Sta. Ana promised to issue a written reply, but the INQUIRER did not receive it as of press time.

But Puwersa spokesperson Jesus Remulla claimed that the ABS-CBN and STI's quick count was more credible.

Drilon

PPC senatorial candidate Franklin Drilon also questioned ABS-CBN's quick count yesterday afternoon, which initially showed the opposition candidates leading by 9-4.

In a statement, Drilon said there could have been misrepresentation in the quick count of ABS-CBN when it passed off "the tally as election results representing the entire Philippines."

He said "the quick count, in reality, does not reflect the election in the entire country."

He explained that the ABS-CBN's quick count as of yesterday established a limited 4-million base of which 2.5 million came from Metro Manila.

Drilon stressed that Metro Manila's voting population represented only 14 percent of the total voting population in the country.

Remulla accused GMA-7 and AMA of using their quick count to establish "trending" in favor of PPC senatorial candidates.

"As far as ABS-CBN is concerned, the results (of their quick count) are a little more fair and transparent. The problem with the other is there is no indication of the parameters . . . we don't know where the votes are coming from," Remulla said.

He said that the GMA-7-AMA quick count only took in the results from known bailiwicks of the administration, supposedly to make it appear that this was the trend for the entire country.

Contrary to Remulla's claim, however, the GMA-7-AMA quick count showed the overall results for the senatorial race as well as the results in every region.

Notwithstanding Remulla's attack on the GMA-7-AMA quick count and after he repeatedly bashed the media for its alleged "biased reporting," the opposition yesterday turned media friendly.

Media friendly

Puwersa acknowledged the role of the media and the citizens' poll watchdog Namfrel in preventing poll cheating.

At a press conference, Sen. Tito Sotto, campaign manager of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, an opposition party, asked the media to be "more vigilant" in watching over the counting.

"This time, we view Namfrel and the media as our allies," Sotto said, claiming that the administration is planning to cheat opposition senatorial candidates.

Asked if the LDP had evidence to prove its claim, Sotto retorted: "We do not have to provide evidence (of cheating). Media should provide that. Media is the one reporting."

"The media is our only hope to point out these things," he said in Filipino.

Until a couple of weeks ago, the opposition had accused the media of biased reporting starting with former President Joseph Estrada's televised impeachment trial.

The Estrada camp also complained when major TV networks did not provide 24-hour coverage of the pro-Estrada rally at the Edsa Shrine from April 25 to May 1, unlike their extensive coverage of the Jan. 16-20 Edsa People Power II.

More credible

Namfrel asked the public to be patient in the wake of the quicker count being conducted by media groups.

Namfrel secretary general Guillermo Luz said Namfrel's numbers were still the most credible.

Luz said Namfrel had nothing more to prove because it had done a good job for the past two decades.

The group is tasked with "safeguarding the people's votes and not to make news," which is the very purpose of the quicker media and political counts, according to Luz.

He said the count being done by other groups underscored the need to issue media statements on the ranking of the candidates and not the accuracy of the numbers being handed by the Comelec.

"They only glance at the tally sheets, and then go to the next precinct," Luz said. "It's really a race for them. We have much more stringent controls."

He said the courts and the government, however, honored only Namfrel figures when problems in the proclamation of winners arise.

"When there are wrong decisions in proclamation, which happens several times, they don't go and call the media to testify. They call us, and we supply evidence, and they reverse the decision based on our testimony," Luz said.

Jose Bernas, Namfrel counsel, said the group was not discounting the "reliability" of the other quick counts, but he said these were a different type that used a different methodology to fulfill a different objective.

Retirement but ...

Luz said the slower count did not undermine the ability of Namfrel, which barely got accreditation this year after a tug-of-war with the National Press Club, which also sought official accreditation for the quick count.

He said Namfrel officials were in fact already "dying to retire" but the inefficiency of the Comelec stopped them from doing so.

"We were going to throw our retirement party this year, but (Comelec Commissioner) Luz Tancangco foiled our plans," Luz said. "I think she's the one who has to prove herself because she's very incompetent."

Namfrel has been criticizing Tancangco for the "massive failure" of the Comelec's modernization projects, including the upgrading of the voters' list, which were under Tancangco's direction.

"We really need to overhaul the system because it's so antiquated. We pity the teachers who have to count 36 million ballots," Luz said. *With reports from Irene Andrea Perez, Rosary Diane Baytion, Shirley Hope Sebastian and Leila Salaverria*

PPC leads 8-5 in Namfrel count

(From page A1)

first set of copies turned out to be mostly illegible.

But a computer glitch in the early afternoon halted the count temporarily, and by 8:30 p.m., computer experts were still working to correct the error.

Earlier in the day, Namfrel chair Jose Concepcion said that barring all hitches, the quick count may last from seven to nine days.

The poll watchdog is also conducting a quick count for congressional party-list representatives.

According to a 7 p.m. tally, the anti-drug group Mamamayang Ayaw sa Droga (MAD) of actor Richard Gomez was leading the party-list race.

Leftist organization Bayan Muna with Satur Ocampo as standard bearer was a close second.

Promdi ranked third; VFP was fourth; and Akbayan, fifth.

The party-list group that will get at least 2 percent of the total party-list votes cast will be entitled to one seat in Congress. About 163 party-list groups have joined the race.

The other party-list groups who made it to the top 15 include Buhay, Cibac, Apec, PDP-Laban, Amin, Abanse!Pinay, LDP, Lakas-NUCD-UM, Coop-Natco and PM.

Optimistic

Manila newspapers yesterday carried wide-ranging, disparate headlines with predictions ranging from opposition victory to an administration sweep.

Rival camps insisted they did well in the crucial race for 13 of the 24 Senate seats up for grabs in a campaign that saw around 100 political killings.

PPC campaign director Paul Aquino forecast an 8-5 or even 9-4 victory for his camp, although he said that he was basing this on "very raw initial" field reports.

In the end, "I think we will get 8-5, and 9-4 is still attainable," he said.

"The reason why we have this confidence of 9-4 is because we're doing very well in Regions 5, 6, 7 plus the provinces of Pampanga, Tarlac and Pangasinan," Aquino said.

Ms Macapagal needs a strong showing to give her administration a credibility boost following massive street protests by pro-Estrada forces and a failed alleged coup attempt.

Estrada has sought from jail to rally support for opposition figures in hopes that gains by his allies, including his wife, Loi Ejercito, will bolster his claim that he was ousted illegally.

Comelec count

The National Board of Canvassers convenes at 10 a.m. today at the Philippine International Convention Center to start what is expected to be a time-consuming canvassing of votes for the senatorial and party-list slots.

...oy ang Misyon ni LOI
Ituloy ang Misyon ni LOI
Ituloy ang M...
DOKTORA NG MASA
LOI ESTRADA
FOR SENAT...

TEARING up the trappings of an intense election war is labor-intensive.

BULLIT MARQUZ/AP

The Commission on Elections yesterday passed Resolution No. 4343 which provides for "general instructions on the canvass and proclamation of the results for senators and party-list in the May 14, 2001 national and local elections."

A supervisory committee has been created, headed by lawyer Mike Aguam as executive director.

In the Namfrel center at La Salle, Greenhills, a computer glitch caused errors in the figures in Report No. 8 at 2.p.m., which was released by Namfrel to mediamen an hour later.

Reporters covering the count pointed out a discrepancy between figures for Regions 8 to 12 in Reports No. 7 and 8.

Bobby Mauricio, head of Namfrel's computer department, said that the computer hung while data for the Report No. 8 were being updated.

He said that the next batch of volunteers who took over the computer operations did not notice the errors.

As a result, De Castro's votes in Region 8 decreased by 7,512 in Report No. 8 from 13,071 votes in Report No. 7.

"This is a result of a misprint," explained Philip Suzara, chief of Namfrel's media bureau.

"It is impossible for a candidate to have less votes than in previous results," he said.

The problem led to the delay in the issuance of Report No. 9 by nearly six hours.

Main problem

Earlier, Concepcion said that the decision of the Comelec to give Namfrel the seventh copy of certificates of votes saved the day for the poll watchdog.

"I think our main problem is still the unreadable copies of the election returns but the seventh copy of the certificates of votes is a big help," he added.

The quick-count center received its first e-mail of election returns from Namfrel field offices at 10 p.m. Monday. The e-mails came in trickles.

Concepcion earlier complained that the sixth copy of the election returns given to Namfrel immediately after the close of the polls were not legible.

He then asked Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo to authorize the watchdog body to get the seventh copy of the certificates of canvass, which was originally supposed to go to the National Press Club until the latter withdrew its bid to conduct a quick count.

Asked why the sixth copy was not as legible as the seventh, one Namfrel official said that Comelec Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco should be asked "who was in charge of these papers used for certificates of canvass."

Concepcion said that the Namfrel branch in Makati was not able to get its sixth copy of the elections returns because the board of canvassers refused to give it.

The same thing happened in Valenzuela in the morning when Comelec personnel refused to give Namfrel its copies of the election returns, he said.

Concepcion said he had to call Benipayo who later ordered his men to release the election returns to Namfrel.

The Namfrel certified copies of canvass will be compared with those of the Comelec to check discrepancies in the separate tallies. *With reports from Rocky Nazareno and Christine Avendaño*

First 48 hours . . .

(From page A1)

radio broadcast industry, while the latter are both saying that they are the most widely read newspaper in the Philippines. For these media organizations, speed is of the essence in their coverage of the elections.

For the elections, ABS-CBN tied up with the Star for its "Halalan 2001" coverage, while GMA-7 and the INQUIRER teamed up with other media partners for "Eleksyon 2001."

Making things more interesting is the choice by the two groups of technology partners to speed up their respective unofficial quick counts: Halalan 2001 has Systems Technology Institute (STI) and Globe Telecoms, while Eleksyon 2001 has AMA Computer College and Smart Communications.

STI and AMA are bitter rivals in the computer education industry, while Globe and Smart are competing head-on in the mobile phone market.

Halalan 2001 and Eleksyon 2001 each have their own unofficial quick counts facilitated by their technology partners.

The speed by which media deliver these tallies, however, raises questions about the need for a speedy count, bearing in mind that the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) traditionally releases partial results within 36 hours of the elections. Namfrel is an independent body accredited by the Commission on Elections to conduct the only quick count of the elections.

"The first 48 hours after the elections are crucial," said Karim Bangcola, senior vice president of AMA Education System. "We don't usually get results within this time frame, and Filipinos are hot about election data and about knowing who's in the lead."

Sending results via e-mail

This is AMA's fourth quick count, it having conducted the first in cooperation with GMA-7, the next two with ABC-5 and this year again with GMA-7. It is pooling more than 60 of its colleges and 120 learning centers nationwide to process data from precincts and to send them via e-mail to the AMA Quick Count center at the GMA Network building in Quezon City.

While Namfrel is using e-mail for the first time this year to transfer data from the field to its nerve center at La Salle Greenhills, media quick count results have been e-mailed as early as the 1998 presidential elections.

Fr. Manuel Bongayan, in charge of the quick count being conducted by Radio Veritas and the Catholic Media Network, sends e-mail to INQ7.net where its quick count is released on the Internet real-time. INQ7.net is the online news organization jointly owned by the INQUIRER and GMA.

"Our quick count may be slower than the others but we are very conservative with our count," Bongayan said. "We hope that the quick counts being conducted by the media are a reflection of reality."

Both the AMA quick count and that of Veritas, along with the unofficial tally of Namfrel and the official results from the Comelec, are uploaded to INQ7.net for the first ever online, real-time presentation of election results in the Philippines.

The data are then sent to Smart Communications for their cell phone subscribers to download via WAP (wireless application protocol) and text message.

No personal agenda

Both Bangcola and Bongayan deny any personal agenda in releasing such quick counts.

"We want to release information immediately after the elections, because by the time the Namfrel data come along our count would be irrelevant," said Bongayan, an officer of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas. "Some media might have their own agenda, but in our case the slower release of our data shows that we have been careful in tallying results from our reporters and volunteers."

"Our only agenda is to let our students understand the importance of the elections and for them to have a practical application of what they are learning," said Bangcola.

Both the Veritas and the AMA quick counts get their data from volunteers nationwide straight from the polling precincts. Veritas fields parish workers and reporters of the Catholic Media Network, while AMA has fielded 6,000 students and employees nationwide to get data from the precincts.

"This election, our quick count has become faster because of the use of cell phones, e-mail and the Internet," Bongayan said.

Low-tech verification

But how do you verify that kind of electronic data? One can always go back to good old "low-tech."

"We pick up the telephone or use the fax and read the data on paper," Bongayan said.

As for the AMA volunteers: "They read the data straight from the Manila paper record posted on the precincts," Bangcola said.

Loi gets votes as Erap surrogate

(From page A1)

Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado (10th to 16th place).

At press time last night, GMA's Eleksyon 2001 ranked Ejercito 14th, breathing on the neck of fellow Puwersa ng Masa candidate Panfilo Lacson, 13th place, and ahead of PnM colleague, Honasan, in 15th place.

From the beginning of the quick counts, whether they were by GMA Eleksyon 2001 or ABS-CBN's Halalan 2001, she was either inside the winning column of 13, or holding on to 14th place.

Sympathy vote

Loi appears to be benefiting from a strong sympathy vote for Estrada, channeled into her as Estrada's surrogate. This sympathy vote goes to her exclusively and does not go to the PnM ticket.

Estrada fielded her for the Senate as his proxy in the test of confidence between him and President Macapagal-Arroyo. No one among the opposition senatorial candidates can serve better as Estrada's surrogate than Ejercito. Apparently, she is drawing the sympathy votes from Estrada supporters who resent either his arrest, the alleged indignities he has suffered during detention, or his removal from office by People Power II.

Strongest in E class

That she is drawing the vote of Estrada's constituency—the poorer classes—is reflected by the Social Weather Stations survey results according to classes. Ejercito ranked 22nd-23rd place among ABC (the upper and middle classes), but ranked 14th among Class D voters, and 6th among Class E voters.

She could also be benefiting from the Iglesia ni Cristo which endorsed her as one of the five PnM senatorial candidates, to eight for the People Power Coalition. INC is claimed to have three million members who vote as a solid bloc.

Aside from being a psychiatrist, Loi does not have the credentials of some of the women senatorial candidates such as the economist Winnie Monsod but it is her association with Estrada that gives her an edge over them in drawing votes from the poorer classes that are looking for a new straw to clutch following the fall of their champion.

Magnet of masses

Neither Edgardo Angara, who is inside the winning circle, Lacson, Honasan, nor Miriam Defensor-Santiago, can be the magnet of the masses as Erap's surrogate.

No one has Estrada's charisma that can cast a spell on the masses, identifying with them even though he has not delivered benefits for them.

Angara is too bland and technocratic to be Estrada's alter ego or heir apparent in the role of surrogate of the masses. Defensor-Santiago may have incited them to fury with her demagogic talents, coming to the fore in the Edsa rally that led to the storming of Malacañang. But she can't identify with the poor.

Emancipation

Lacson and Honasan are too conspiratorial.

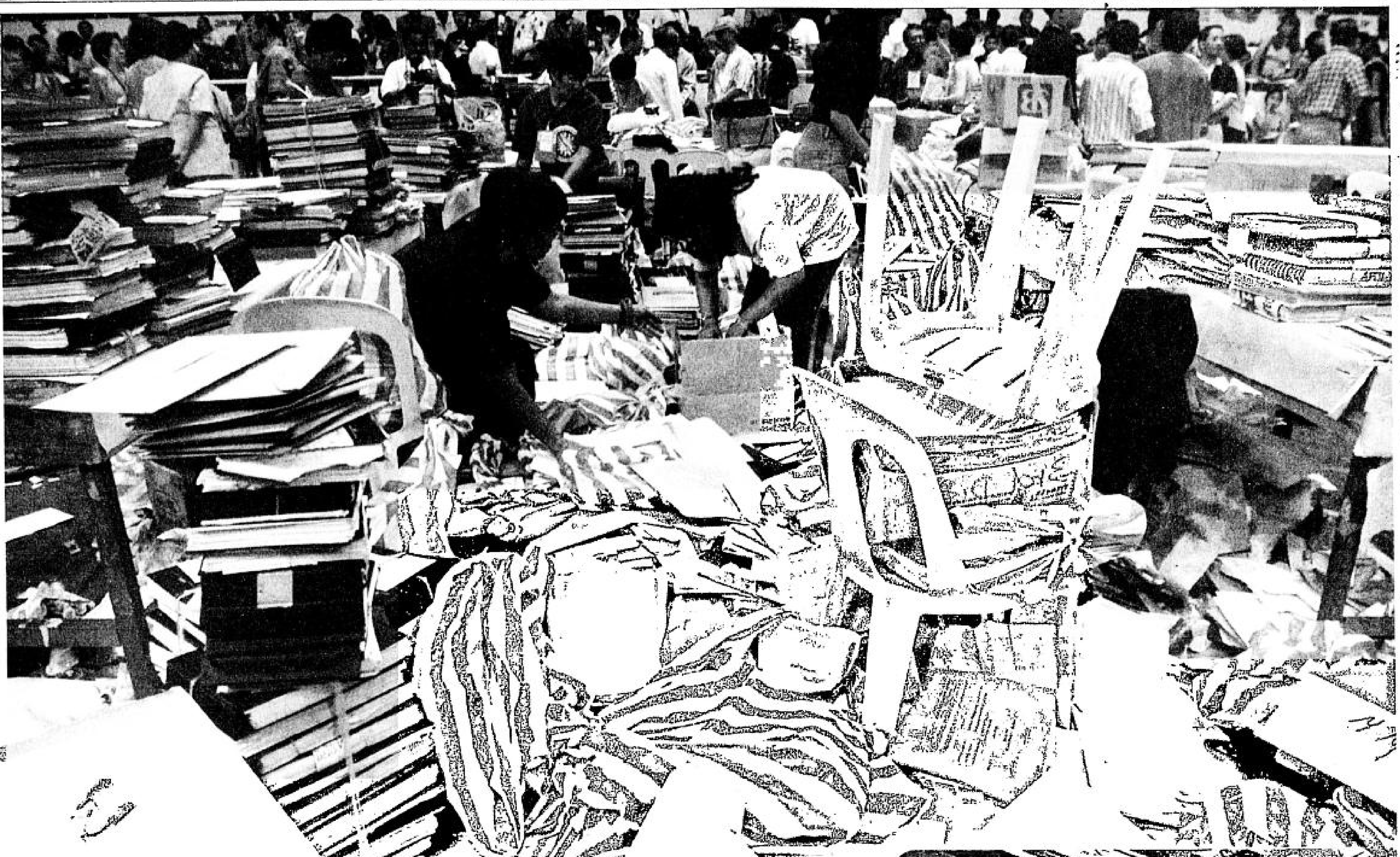
In any case, if in the final count Ejercito wins a Senate seat, that would be a stage of her emancipation from Estrada as a political element independent of the political fortunes of her husband who is standing trial for plunder. It would seem that the sympathy vote is shielding her from the fallout of the plunder charges.

Part of the sympathy vote comes from the poor who continue to believe her husband is still president and can do no wrong.

Ejercito's constituency represents a pre-modern political culture tapped by Estrada's populist politics that now collide with the more impersonal norms introduced by President Macapagal in her style of governance.

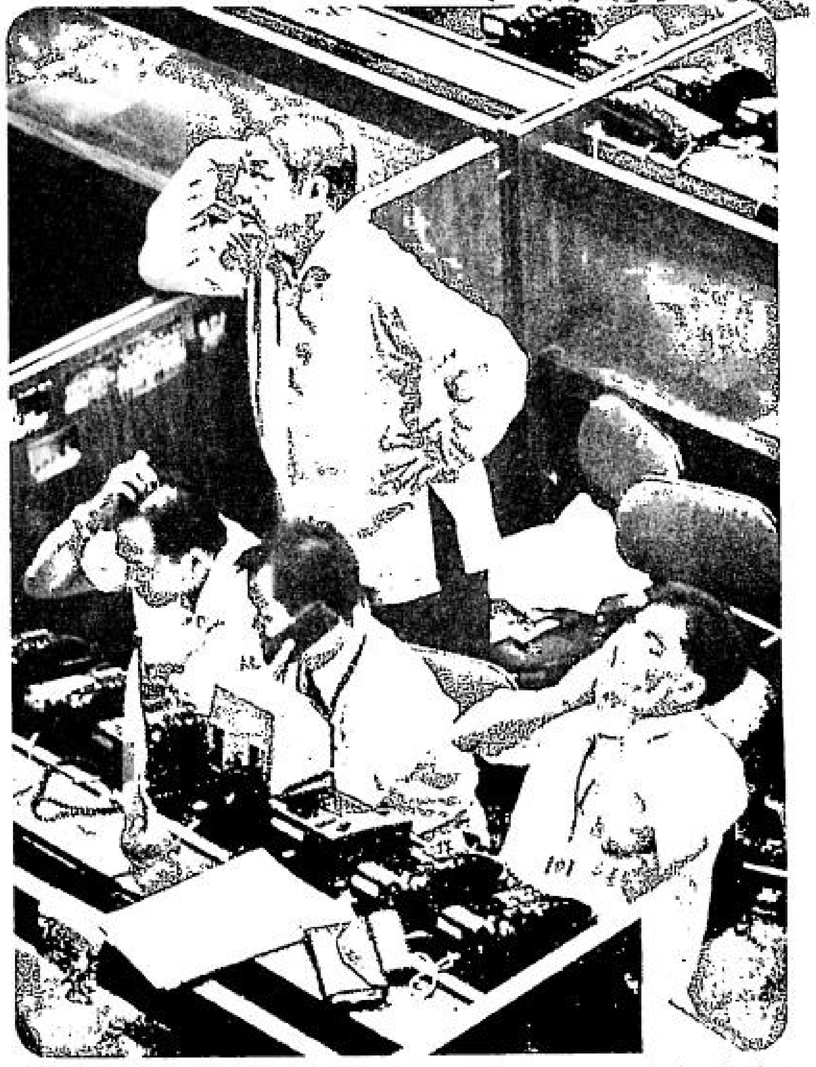
Behold the chaos

Is this any way to run an election? Materials were delivered late or not at all; votes are counted manually; results are not known until 10 or 15 days later.



MESSY sight of upturned chairs, envelopes, logbooks and people at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium where the Comelec is canvassing the votes for the local polls.
REUTERS

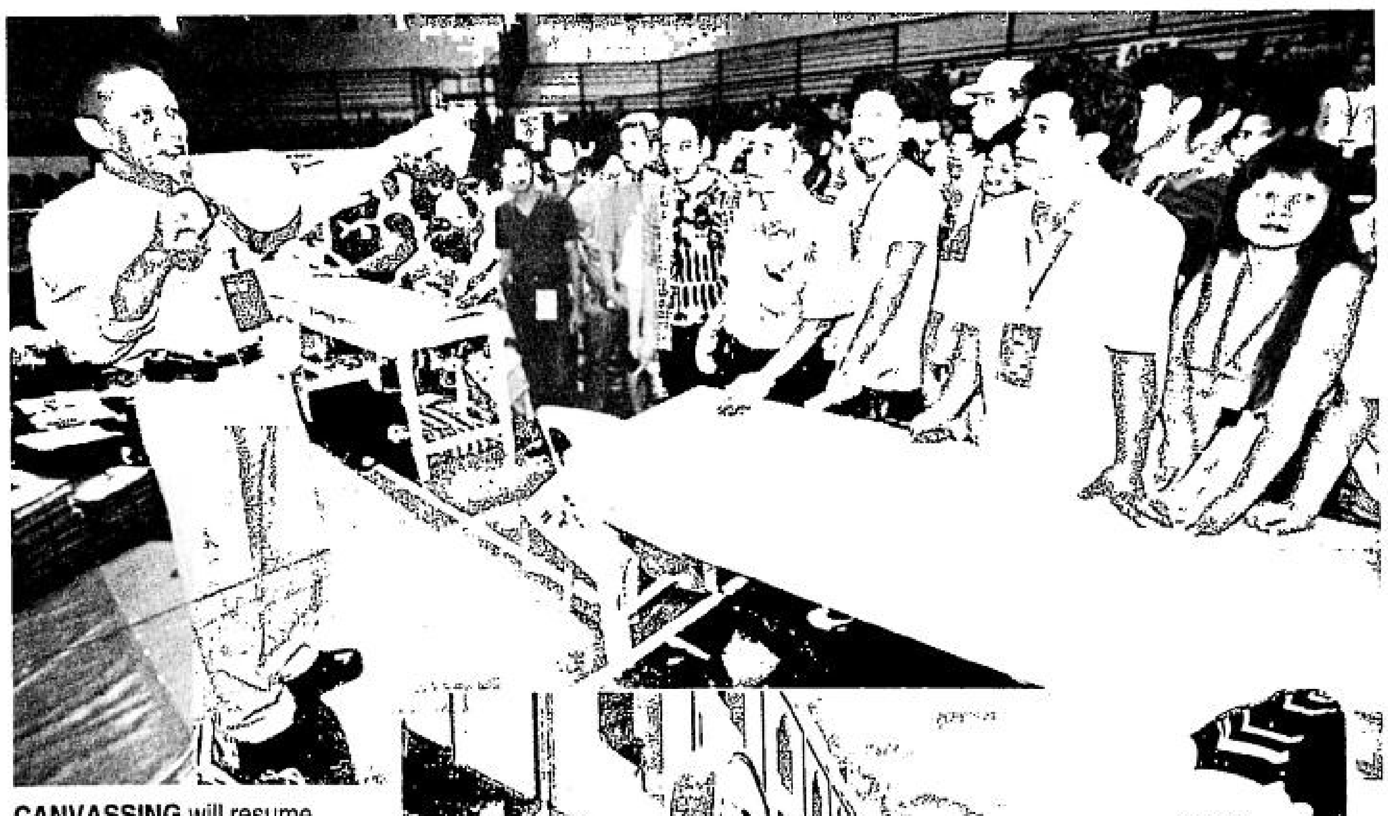
WANNA fight over this ballot box? This volunteer at Quezon City appears to say.
MIKE ALQUINTO



CONFUSED traders at the Philippine Stock Exchange as stocks dip day after the election as investors opted to remain on the sidelines to wait for a clearer picture of the outcome of the election.
REUTERS

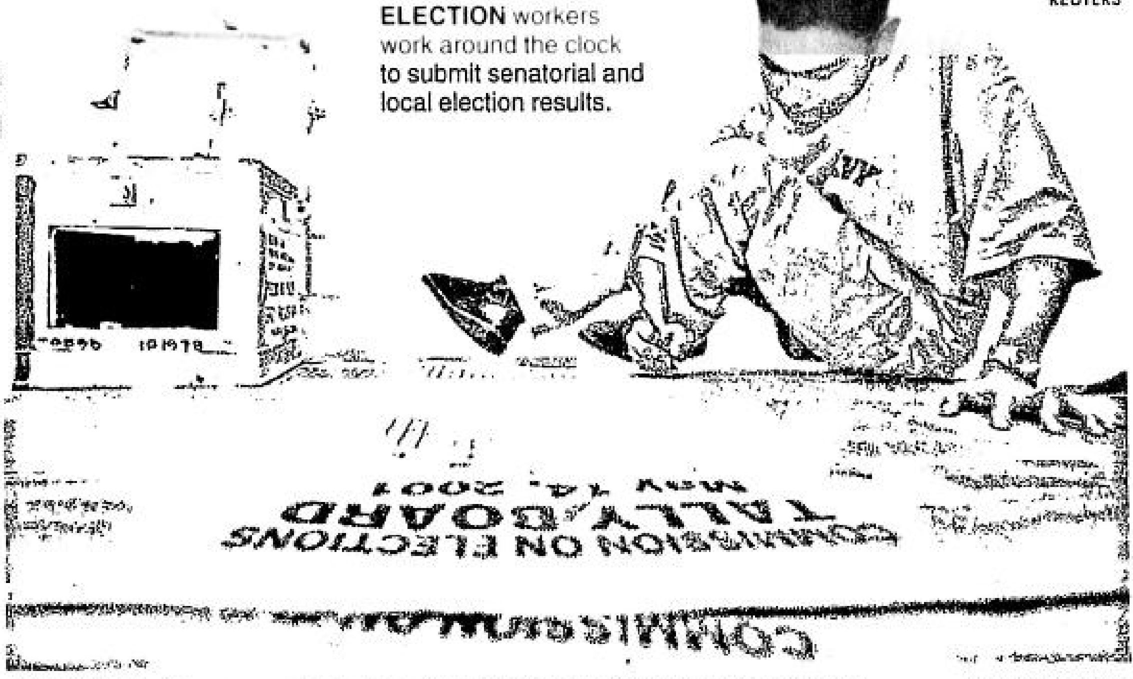
REUTERS

ELECTION workers work around the clock to submit senatorial and local election results.



CANVASSING will resume tomorrow, announces Comelec official Emilio Santos, to allow volunteers, watchers and teachers to get a much-needed shut-eye.
ERIK ARAZAS

HEAT does not deter this watcher for a candidate's votes from doing her job outside the Lanao del Sur provincial capital where the canvassing of ballots is centralized for 22 towns considered election hot spots.



BY HAND, ballots are counted at the Gen.Roxas High School in Quezon City.
EDWIN BACASMAS

Marcoses, Singsons, Dys, Josons winning

(From page A1)

"Chavit" Singson were leading their rivals. The Singsons have been the most dominant political family in the province for three decades now.

Among Singson's relatives who ran in the province were his brother Board Member Jeremias Singson for vice governor; his son Ronald, board member; his niece Eva Marie Singson-Medina, Vigan City mayor; and his sister Germalina Singson-Goulart, Vigan councilor.

Vice Gov. Deogracias Victor Savellano, Singson's chosen candidate, is leading the race for Ilocos Sur governor with 13,654 votes against closest rival Board Member Efren Rafanan's 13,278.

Former Rep. Eric Singson, Chavit's estranged cousin, is leading Virgilio Valle for the second district congressional race. In the first district, incumbent Rep. Salacnib Baterina is in a close fight with former Rep. Mariano Tajon.

In La Union, seasoned politicos and old political families seemed to be renewing their hold on key positions in the province.

The Ortega clan, in power since 1901, has made a near-clean sweep, with 10 of 11 of its candidates, of various political colors, making a good showing in the latest quick count made by Tignay, Namfrel's official arm in the province.

In the gubernatorial race, former Rep. Victor Ortega was leading by a large margin over Tomas Dumpit Jr. in the first district, and by a modest margin in the second district, considered the bailiwick of the Dumpits.

In the congressional race, first district reelectionist candidate Manuel Ortega was heading for a landslide victory over newcomer Michael Magsaysay, while in the second district, reelectionist Tomas Dumpit was leading his opponent, Rodolfo Rivera.

In San Fernando City, reelectionist Mayor Mary Jane Ortega was ahead of her opponent Manuel Aquino.

The vice gubernatorial race is so far in favor of re-electionist Aureo Nisce, who was pitted against ex-Board Member Carlos Ortega.

Other Ortegas in the political race—five candidates for the city council and two for the provincial board—were making a good showing as of Tignay's last count.

Reports from Isabela also showed the Dys posting early leads in the races for local elective positions.

Three-time Cauayan Mayor Faustino Dy III (5,006 votes in eight towns) was leading independent candidate Ma. Gracia Cielo Padaca (4,125).

Caesar Dy was leading Bartolome Mallillin for Cauayan City mayor.

Rep. Faustino Dy Jr. will take the gubernatorial post of Isabela following the disqualification of his rival.

Reelectionist Gov. Tomas Joson III, acknowledged leader of the Joson political clan in Nueva Ecija, was leading his rival Rep. Pacifico Fajardo in the gubernatorial race.

Joson's brother Eduardo IV was leading Anita Chauhan in the vice gubernatorial race.

However, the governor's son Edward Thomas was running second behind Aurelio Umali in the congressional race in the third district.

Other Joson candidates in the province have reportedly posted leads over their rivals, unofficial and partial election results gathered by the INQUIRER showed.

In Pampanga, Juan Miguel or Mikey, President Macapagal-Arroyo's eldest son, appeared headed for a runaway victory in the vice gubernatorial race.

Gov. Manuel Lapid, the President's staunch ally, took a very wide lead over Ananias Canlas Jr. to claim a third term.

Reelectionist Rep. Francis Nepomuceno (first district), Rep. Zenaida Ducut (second district) and Rep. Oscar Rodriguez (third district) garnered more votes in the initial stage of the counting.

Without an opponent, Rep. Juan Pablo Bondoc, (fourth district) was a sure winner even before the race started.

'Jueteng' candidates

Candidates who are suspected of running "jueteng" or had connections in the racket garnered less votes.

Melchor Caluag—known in jueteng circles as "Ngongo"—failed to make it to the race for the city's 10 top councilors.

Reelectionist San Fernando Councilor Mario Garcia or Marga, who reportedly operates jueteng in Angeles City, slid to the seventh slot.

Supporters of Caluag and Garcia are not yet conceding. The Namfrel's quick count, they said, covered only 103 or 497 precincts in the city.

Lubao Mayor Lilia Pineda, who is running for a seat in the provincial board, lagged behind her two top opponents in the Guagua counting. Pineda is the wife of suspected jueteng lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda.

Her son Dennis was leading the mayoral race in Lubao.

In Olongapo City, unofficial, partial election returns of the Comelec as of 11:48 a.m. yesterday showed reelectionist Mayor Katherine Gordon leading. Her brother-in-law, reelectionist Zambales Rep. James Gordon, also garnered more votes than his two rivals.

Cordillera

In Abra, unofficial, partial results from 10 precincts in the capital town of Bangued showed outgoing Rep. Vicente Valera leading the race for Abra governor against Ernesto "Dragon" Pacuño Sr.

In Mountain Province, Roy Pilando was leading former Rep. Victor Dominguez in the race for the lone congressional seat of the province, Namfrel's partial, unofficial count showed.

Pangasinan, Baguio

Reelectionist Gov. Victor Agbayani was leading Rep. Teodoro Cruz in the gubernatorial race in Pangasinan.

Former Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. of the fourth district appeared headed for victory when Rep. Benjamin Lim gave way to his candidacy.

Lim was leading in the race for Dagupan City mayor.

Also leading in the congressional races were Rep. Generoso Tulagan of the third district, former Rep. Conrado Estrella III in the sixth district, and neophyte Mark Cojuangco, son of former Ambassador Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., in the fifth district.

In Baguio City, incumbent Mayor Mauricio Domogan was leading human rights lawyer Pablito Sanidad for the congressional race by 1,914 votes in the latest unofficial count.

Both Domogan and Sanidad, Chavit's legal counsel at Joseph Estrada's aborted impeachment trial, claimed support from the administration party Lakas-NUCD-UMDP.

Domogan garnered 4,353 votes in the Namfrel tally as of 3 p.m. yesterday. Sanidad trailed with 2,439 votes.

Outgoing Rep. Bernardo Vergara was leading in the mayoral race in Baguio.

Southern Luzon

In Laguna, incumbent Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro of the Puwersa ng Masa (PnM), who was recently disqualified by the Comelec's second division, was leading Alberto David Lina, brother of Interior Secretary Jose Lina, according to partial, unofficial results.

Lazaro's case is being reviewed by the Comelec en banc.

Philbert L. Flores of the AMA Computer-GMA 7 Operation Quick Count said that as of 11 a.m. yesterday, Lazaro was leading with 6,951 votes over Lina's 5,863 in Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

Lazaro was also leading in San Pablo City and in the Namfrel count in Calamba City, according to local Namfrel chair Benny Castillo.

"These could be sympathy votes for Lazaro," said Fr. Philip Atienza, Namfrel provincial coordinator.

The killing of Quezon Rep. Marcial Punzalan Jr. on May 12 was expected to trigger a landslide election victory for his widow Lynette (Lakas-PPC) in the province's third district.

Lynette is running for the seat vacated by her husband.

"We were not expecting this kind of voters' turnout in her favor. We would rather not refer to these as sympathy votes, but as indignation votes," Vallie Faith Bibit, chief of staff of Punzalan, said in Lucena City yesterday.

According to radio dwTI's tally of partial returns as of 3 p.m. yesterday, Lynette was leading in Lucena with 8,845 votes, followed by lawyer Eduardo Escueta (LDP-NPC), former administrator of the Philippine Coconut Authority, with 4,270.

In Batangas, reelectionist Gov Hermilando Mandanas of Reporma was leading with 54,140 votes based on Namfrel tabulations, followed by Vicente Platon of PPC, 15,608; and independent candidate Arturo Atienza, 49.

In Oriental Mindoro, losing gubernatorial candidate Chalie Valencia and her running mate, former Vice Gov Pedrito Reyes, said they would file a pre-proclamation protest against their opponents for alleged "massive disenfranchisement and vote-buying" in Calapan City and Naujan and Pinamalayan towns.

Valencia was trailing incumbent Vice Gov. Bartolome L. Marasigan by about 14,000 votes based on partial, unofficial returns.

Marasigan's spokesperson Nestor Panahon denied the charges of vote buying, saying in a radio interview: "We don't have the money. If we had the money, we would use that to help the poor and the needy."

Bicol

Most of the incumbent officials in Bicol who are seeking reelection appeared to be winning based on the initial counting of votes by the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting.

As of 4 p.m. yesterday, Albay Gov. Al Francis obtained 30,745 votes, more than double former governor Romeo Salalima's 14,776 votes.

Rep. Krisel Lagman-Luistro (first district) was way ahead of Ana Marie Kare. Rep. Jose Ma. Clemente Salceda (third district) ran unopposed.

In the second district, Carlos Imperial enjoyed a narrow lead over Legazpi City Mayor Imelda C. Roces.

In Camarines Sur, actress Nora Aunor appeared to be no match to veteran politician Gov. Luis R. Villafuerte in the gubernatorial race. Partial, unofficial returns yesterday showed that Villafuerte's votes were thrice those of Aunor.

Incumbent Rep. Salvio Fortuno (fourth district) and Rolando Andaya Jr. (first district) were unopposed.

In Camarines Norte's lone congressional district, Renato Unico Jr. had a slight edge over Elmer Panotes.

In the gubernatorial race, Jesus Typoco Jr. was leading Emmanuel Pimentel and Roy Padilla Jr., based on unofficial results from the towns of Daet, Labo and Paracale.

Visayas

If the current voting trend were to be the gauge, popular television broadcaster Ted Failon may just become the first in the political history of Leyte province to beat a Romualdez.

Failon, an independent candidate, was leading incumbent Rep. Alfred Romualdez by only 205 votes, based on Namfrel's tabulation of election returns from 125 of the 414 polling precincts in Tacloban City.

Failon garnered 4,547 votes against Romualdez's 4,308.

In Antique, jailed former assemblyman Arturo Pacificador was trailing his two other opponents in the gubernatorial race.

Pacificador, a Kilusang Bagong Lipunan candidate who was jailed on charges of masterminding the February 1986 killing of Gov. Evelio Javier, garnered 2,768 votes in the unofficial count of Kabalikat, a local election watchdog group.

Gubernatorial candidate Sally Zaldivar-Perez (LDP-Lakas-NUCD) had 6,458 votes, while incumbent Vice Gov. Damiam Marfil (Reporma-PnM) drew 6,354.

As of 2 p.m. yesterday, incumbent Gov. Exequiel Javier (Lakas), brother of Evelio, was leading over reelectionist Rep. Jovito Planeras (NPC) in the lone congressional district of Antique.

Kabalikat counted election returns from the capital town of San Jose and the populous towns of Sibalom, Patnongon, Belison and San Remigio

In Negros Occidental, pro administration candidates were trailing candidates supported by Eduardo Cojuangco based on partial, unofficial counts of Namfrel.

Gov. Rafael Coscolluela yesterday admitted that the United Negros Alliance (UNA), which is supported by Cojuangco, was headed for a close sweep of all top elective posts in Negros Occidental.

"You can say that UNA is practically going to have political control of the province. I know this is going to be very highly distressing for many of our supporters," Coscolluela said.

"Cojuangco is going to be very influential in the province. When Cojuangco (speaks), everybody is going to shake in his boots and listen," he said.

The UNA's gubernatorial candidate, Sagay City Mayor Joseph Maranon, and vice gubernatorial candidate, Kabankalan Mayor Isidro Zayco, were leading in poll counts in most towns and cities over Aton Tamdon Utod Negrosanon (ATUN) standard bearer Romeo Gamboa, the incumbent vice governor, and his running mate Gregorio Yulo

In the Negros Occidental congressional race, Coscolluela said it appears that the UNA may take four seats, with Rep. Edith Villanueva (ATUN) still showing a fighting chance in the third district against Jose Carlos Lacson, and Rep. Apolinario Lozada (Lakas-NUCD) against Enrique Montilla (UNA).

Rep. Julio Ledesma (first district), Rep. Joseph Maranon (second district), Rep. Carlos Cojuangco (fourth district) and Rep. Genaro Alvarez (sixth district) of UNA appeared headed for victory.

But Carlos Cojuangco's opponent, Juancho Aguirre (ATUN), said the fight was not yet over. "The fight is close and whoever will win will only have a lead of 2,000 votes," he said.

In Bacolod City, it was still a close fight between Rep. John Orola (UNA) and former Sports Commissioner Monico Puentevella, who was enjoying a slight lead.

The mayoral race was also a toss-up between Mayor Joy Valdez (Lakas) and former mayor Evelio Leonardia.

Mindanao

In Bukidnon, Jose Zubiri (Lakas) was leading over reelectionist Gov. Nemesio Beltran (PMP), according to partial, unofficial results. Beltran was leading only in Malaybalay City.

In the mayoral race in Malaybalay, third-termer Rep. Reginaldo Tilanduca conceded to his rival, incumbent Vice Mayor Florencio Flores.

In Valencia City, former Bukidnon Gov. Carlos Fortich was slightly behind retired Senior Supt. Jose Galario Jr. based on partial, unofficial results.

In Davao del Sur, NPC gubernatorial candidate Reynerio Llanos recorded 13,580 votes based on unofficial returns from at least four towns as of 10 a.m. yesterday, while his rival, Antonio Sunga of Lakas got 8,472 votes.

Llanos's running mate, Benjamin Joseph Bautista, got 14,234 against Merlin Bello's 8,472.

In the congressional race for the 1st district, NPC candidate Douglas Cagas got 33,955 votes based on partial returns from all seven towns, while his rival, Pablo Villaber garnered 15,993.

In the mayoral race for Digos, Mayor Arsenio Latasa maintained his lead over Vice Mayor Romeo Sunga by more than 10,000 votes based on unofficial returns.

In Zamboanga City, local Namfrel chair Ramon Quin said it was still too early to predict the outcome as his group had counted results from only 172 of the 1,419 precincts.

The results showed reelectionist Rep. Celso Lobregat of LDP way ahead of his rivals, ex-Vice Mayor Efren Arañez of the Lakas-NUCD-UMDP and Councilor Luis Climaco of the PDP-Laban.

In the mayoral race, reelectionist Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat was leading former Mayor Vitaliano Agan and former Presidential Consultant on Mindanao Economic Affairs Lepeng Wee. *Reports from Cristina Arzadon, Leoncio Balbin Jr., Gia Damaso-Dumo, Peter La. Julian, Yolanda Fuertes, Kira Espino, Villamor Visaya Jr., Ben Moses Ebreo, Joya Santos-Doctor, Frank Cimatu, Vincent Cabreza, Desiree Caluza, Shannaleigh Picar and Myriam Garcia, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Tonette Orejas, Jun Malig, Russell Arador and Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Romulo Ponte, Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Mei Magsino, Juan Escandor Jr., Roly Embile, Rey Nasol and Joel J. Jabal, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Hazel Villa, Carla P. Gomez and Joey Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau; H. Marcos C. Mordeno, Allan A. Nawal, Jonathan F. Ma, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Toe-to-toe slugfest . . .

(From page A1)

his closest rival, actor Rudy "Daboy" Fernandez, appears to be a proxy war between President Macapagal-Arroyo and her disgraced predecessor, Joseph Estrada.

As of 4 p.m. yesterday in Manila, the Namfrel count showed reelectionist Lito Atienza leading the seven-cornered mayoral race. The People Power Coalition (PPC) candidate, Amado Bagatsing, was ranked third.

Atienza, a Liberal Party stalwart and Estrada supporter, is believed to enjoy the support of the urban poor in Tondo and San Andres Bukid.

The latter is the mayor's personal turf, while the latter is regarded as an Estrada bailiwick, whose residents were among those who took part in the May 1 attack on Malacañang.

As of 10:40 a.m., Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio was leading reelectionist Reynaldo Malonzo by the slimmest of margins--2,640 to 2,477—in the hotly contested mayoral race in Caloocan City.

Asistio, a long-time friend of Estrada's, said the slim lead showed "the real voice of Caloocan."

But Malonzo, a key player in the movement that ousted Estrada, said the Namfrel tally could not have been correct. He said his own count showed that he was leading Asistio by over 19,000, based on results from around 1,500 polling precincts

He said he was expecting a 30,000 lead over Asistio at the end of the official count of the Commission on Elections.

There are 2,827 polling precincts and 522,088 voters in Caloocan.

As of 12 noon in Malabon, Rep. Ricky Sandoval had established an early lead over Rissa Oreta--11,719 to 10,145—in the congressional race.

The numbers will be added to the Namfrel results in Navotas because Malabon and Navotas are considered a combined congressional district. Navotas results had yet to be released at press time.

Sandoval, who is running under the PPC ticket, is seeking a second straight term against Oreta, eldest daughter of Estrada ally Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta.

In the Malabon mayoral race, reelectionist Amado Vicencio, a staunch Estrada supporter, was leading the PPC's Flerry Marcelo, 15,516 to 7,947.

The results were based on returns from 249 polling precincts.

As of 11:20 a.m. in Valenzuela, 27-year-old Sherwin Gatchalian was leading Magtanggol Gunigundo Sr. in the city's first congressional district based on returns from 110 polling precincts.

Sherwin, son of "plastics king" and known Estrada crony William Gatchalian, posted a 1,547-751 lead over Gunigundo, former chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

At the second congressional district, Gunigundo's son Magi garnered 4,439 votes against Tony Serapio's 2,654 and Santiago de Guzman's 1,178.

The young Gunigundo, an Estrada critic and member of Congress' "Spice Boys," is seeking a second straight term.

In the Valenzuela mayoral race, reelectionist Emmanuel Carlos was leading Vice Mayor Ernesto de Guzman and Eliseo Demafelis.

Carlos had 6,803 votes, as against De Guzman's 4,165 and Demafelis' 1,382.

Sonny vs Daboy

Belmonte has posted an overwhelming lead over Fernandez in the Namfrel quick count. But even before the Comelec can start the formal canvassing of votes, Fernandez accused Belmonte's camp of massive fraud.

Fernandez is a true-blue Estrada supporter. Belmonte, on the other hand, played a vital role in the ex-president's impeachment trial as manager of the House prosecutors

The actor said his lawyers were preparing a formal complaint to be filed before the Comelec central office in Intramuros today.

"This is just gross. There was widespread and massive cheating," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

He added: "The essence of an election is supposedly for the will of the people to be known, but with what they have been doing, they have suppressed the rights of Quezon City residents."

The official Comelec count started only about 4:20 p.m. yesterday, after Fernandez's camp questioned the refusal of the Board of Election Inspectors' (BEI) to give the fifth copy of the election returns to his poll watchers.

According to lawyer and Fernandez aide Ed Buenaflor, the BEI's move is very suspicious considering that Fernandez's party, the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) is the dominant opposition party in the city.

Buenaflor also cited the Comelec decision to replace the chair of the Board of Canvassers (BOC) only three days before the elections.

He said the former BOC chair, lawyer Romeo Lobregat, gave them a certification on May 10 acknowledging LDP as the dominant minority party.

Buenaflor pointed out that while the new BOC chair, Alioden Dalaeg, had ruled that the Nationalist People's Coalition was the dominant minority party, local NPC chair Anna Dominique Coseteng gave them a certification allowing them to get the fifth copy of the election returns.

But "the BEI still refused to acknowledge" the LDP, he said.

Fernandez's running mate, Herbert Bautista, also expressed alarm at the way the Comelec had been handling the canvassing.

"This is just very unusual," Bautista told the INQUIRER in a separate phone interview. "The disenfranchisement of voters was widespread, and the delay in the canvassing is quite suspicious."

Confident Atienza

At 4 p.m. the Namfrel count covered 217, or a little over 3.5 percent, of the 6,186 precincts in Manila, and the local Comelec office had yet to begin its official canvass.

But Atienza told reporters that he was confident of winning a second term.

The support of the Iglesia ni Cristo and the militant labor groups Sanlakas and Partido ng Manggagawa and their affiliates appear to be behind this confidence.

And the perceived support of the urban poor for Atienza could also translate into more votes for other opposition candidates in the city.

According to the Namfrel count in Manila, five candidates of the Estrada-backed Puwersa ng Masa (PnM)—Edgardo Angara, former first lady Luisa Ejercito, Ricardo Puno, Gregorio Honasan and Juan Ponce Enrile—are in the top 13.

Even Atienza's party mates running for congressional seats—Nestor Ponce Jr. in the second district, Rodolfo Bacani in the fourth and Joey Hizon in the fifth, all of them reelectionists—are first-placers in the quick count.

Another Estrada supporter, Manila Times publisher Mark Jimenez, is also leading in the sixth district. The Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga (MAD), with actor and Estrada supporter Richard Gomez as nominee, is leading the party-list groups. *With reports from Paul Ernest Lazaro, Louie Jon Sanchez, Mark Isaiah David, JP Andaquig, Jeusa Raflores and Myla Torres*

Ilonggos dump Miriam

(From page A1)

what has traditionally been "Miriam country."

The repudiation of reelectionist Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago by her *kasimanwa* (province mates) in Iloilo became evident yesterday when the partial and unofficial results of the National Movement for Free Elections' early tally showed that she did not even make it to the "Magic 13."

When Santiago ran for president in 1992 and for senator in 1995, early unofficial quick counts of votes in Iloilo placed her on top of the heap, indicating that regardless of her showing in other parts of the country, she was No. 1 among her *kasimanwa*.

This time, as a candidate of the Puwersa ng Masa (PnM), she hovered at No. 14 in the Namfrel tally that covered 12.7 percent or 140 of the 1,101 precincts in the city and province of Iloilo. Voter turnout was 77 percent.

While Santiago's ranking may still climb as the Namfrel tally continues, she is not expected to land on top.

Now contrast her showing with those of other Ilonggo senatorial candidates.

Franklin Drilon (People Power Coalition or PPC) is first in the initial Namfrel count. Perfecto Yasay (independent), who only traces his roots in Iloilo, may be trailing in nationwide quick counts, but he ranked sixth.

The Baptist community in Iloilo led by the Central Philippine University here is also backing Yasay, who was named to the CPU's board of trustees a week before the elections.

Apart from Yasay and ex-broadcaster Noli de Castro (a guest candidate of the PnM), candidates of the PPC took the other top slots.

The edge enjoyed by the PPC is viewed here as the Ilonggos' way of showing support for what People Power II stood for, as well as for the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

At noon yesterday, Drilon was leading the PPC slate, followed by Manuel Villar, Sergio Osmeña, Joker Arroyo, Ramon Magsaysay, Yasay, Juan Flavier, Francisco Pangilinan, Ralph Recto, De Castro, Wigberto Tañada, Solita Monsod and Roberto Pagdanganan.

Santiago took the 14th slot, followed by other PnM candidates Edgardo Angara, Luisa Ejercito-Estrada, Gregorio Honasan, Panfilo Lacson, Juan Ponce Enrile, Ricardo Puno, Orlando Mercado and Jamby Madrigal.

Anti-Estrada

According to Siegfred Deduro, vice president of party-list group Bayan Muna, the trend shows a vote against disgraced ex-President Joseph Estrada.

"Iloilo and many places in the Visayas are anti-Estrada, and that influenced election results," said Deduro.

At the height of the anti-Estrada sentiment from October to January, much of Iloilo province and city, like other places outside Metro Manila, was quiet even as protest rallies were growing bigger.

But members of cause-oriented groups here pointed out that the way the Ilonggos voted, their support for People Power II was considerable.

Killings, bombings, abductions . . .

(From page A1)

Barangay San Juan, Malvar, Batangas. His buddy, PO3 Estanislao Matulac, was wounded in the clash.

PNP Director General Leandro R. Mendoza, who earlier described the elections as "generally peaceful," hailed Calaycay and Ruiz as "heroes."

At least five policemen have been killed in election-related violence.

At 9:30 p.m. Monday, two gunmen shot dead a barangay captain in Juban, Sorsogon, as he was watching the counting of votes at the Aroroy Elementary School in Sitio Tublijon.

At about the same time, a known supporter of the administration Lakas-NUCD was shot dead in Victoria, Northern Samar.

In Leyte, police reported that NPA guerrillas on Tuesday morning abducted Mayor Zemaida Doria of Mayorja town.

Supt. Rojillo Montijo said the NPA, which is responsible for about 25 percent of the political killings, accused Doria of corruption.

In Davao Oriental, a barangay captain was also abducted on Monday night by still unidentified armed men.

According to figures provided by the AFP Task Force HOPE 2001, at least 30 other people have been abducted during the election period and are still missing.

The task force report, however, did not indicate where the abductions took place.

Bombings likewise continued to disrupt the counting of votes in some parts of the country.

In Laoag City, for instance, an explosion early Tuesday morning rocked the city hall where the canvassing of votes in the province was being held.

A wall was damaged, but no one was injured. Police are still trying to determine whether a pillbox or a grenade caused the explosion.

In Columbio, Sultan Kudarat, an M203 grenade exploded inside the elementary school while the counting was going on about 8:30 on Monday.

Director Edgardo Aglipay, PNP operations chief, said he had directed his men to watch out for the possible outbreak of violence, particularly in Mindanao.

"They have to make sure supporters of rival camps do not come face to face during the canvassing of returns," Aglipay told reporters.

In a press briefing, Commission on Elections Chair Alfredo Benipayo said that "fear of potential violence" had prompted the poll body to declare a failure of elections in a least two towns and 13 villages in Abra, Palawan, Masbate, Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao.

Jose Concepcion, chair of the National Movement for Free Elections, said the Comelec had placed the entire province of Quirino under its control.

"The police were worried because there might be shooting. The canvassing was about to begin and the tension was really very high," Concepcion said.

Observes said this year's elections could yet turn out to be bloodiest since 1992.

PNP figures showed that only 45 people were killed in the 1998 presidential election. Seventy-six people, however, were killed in the 1995 congressional and local elections. In the 1992 presidential election, 49 people were killed.

"I am saddened," Archbishop Quevedo said amid reports of violence and ballot theft.

"We need to evaluate the whole electoral process. Why is there so much violence? Why is there so much cheating? What drives people to kill and steal for power?" he asked. ***Reports from Christine Herrera, Dave Veridiano, Carlito Pablo, Rocky Nazareno, Norman Bordadora, Cynthia D. Balana and PDI regional bureaus***

12 SHOTS UP

La'O leads RP Amateur

By Jong Arcano

LA'O

WHILE the others may be dreaming of winning the crown this early in the Philippine amateur golf championship, Cookie La'O has probably set a modest goal of just getting past his first round match.

Four straight years of getting knocked out right in the first round has turned La'O into a bolder and better player.

The Bangkok Asian Games veteran set his frustrations aside to shoot a three-under-par 69 yesterday, using a deadly short game to take the top spot after the first half of the 36-hole qualifying stage at the rain-softened Alabang Country Club course

The 26-year-old La'O, who has topped the eliminations twice the past four years, needed just 23 putts to complete his round. He actually hit only eight greens but made four birdies all from close range.

"I believe all those heartbreaks are bound to end," said La'O.

Clavecilla, out to break his own record as the oldest finalist here 12 years after making it in 1989, was the only other player to go under par under the tough conditions of testy pin placements and soft fairways with his 71.

Solomon Gines and Bacolod-based JR Tanpinco, who knocked in an eagle-3 on the par-5 16th, assembled 72s to boost their chances of making it to the Top 16 after today's final elimination round.

Play shifts from stroke to match starting Thursday for the 16 players who will make it today. Ties will be decided by sudden-death playoffs.

Jay Bayron, the Davaoeño who won the National caddies title last year, and club standout Yayi Escuadro were tied with Abe Rosal at 73 while Del Monte bet Joel Opaco shared eighth place with Jerome Delariarte at 74.

Reigning titlist Angelo Que, taking off with bogeys on the first two holes, could only score a 75 and was tied for 10th. He was joined in that figure by two unheralded bets, Stephen Lasam and Lito Abiera.

Artemio Murakami, Francis Gaston and Emilio Tuason, all former winners here, were bunched in a big group at 77 that also included DHL Open winner Juvic Pagunsan.

La'O's spectacular short game saved him at least nine strokes as he escaped with just one bogey - on the second where he needed two shots to get out of the greenside trap.

"That's golf I guess, it really all up to you to make up for your mistakes," said La'O, who helped Que and now professionals Gerald Rosales and Rhey Luna win a silver medal for the Philippines in the 1998 Asiad in Bangkok.

Intervillage resumes

THE CHASE for berths in the Alaxan Intervillage golf grand finals resumes today (Wednesday, May 16) with the staging of the final round for the north sector qualifier at the Valley Golf Club.

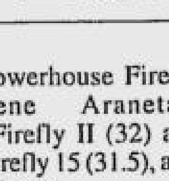
White Plains topped the first stage of the 36-hole eliminations last month at Wack Wack as it scored 290 points under the Stableford scoring system to beat Corinthian (279) and Philam Homes (277).

While White Plains, Corinthian and Philam Homes have the inside track to the top three berths staked in their side of the series, expect the seven other squads to step up their respective bids in the event sponsored by Alaxan.

Cocker of the Year

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo



THERE is intense interest in the Cocker of the Year race at the Araneta Coliseum, considered by sabong masters as the world's toughest cockpit. Why? Because, right now, it's anybody's race in the prestigious COTY series being held annually under the auspices of the National Cockers Association. It's really too close to call with only four legs remaining in the 15-leg NCA 7-Cock Derby circuit, culminating with the foreign-flavored World Slasher 8-Cock Cup on June 18, 20 and 22.

Thus far, leading the star-studded field with 53.5 points is the entry Capitan III of upcoming Alan Tan and battle-tested partner, Patrick Puno. With 52 points and within striking distance is Geran of engineer Gerry Fevidal, who is expected to go for broke at the resumption of the NCA 7-Cock Derby on May 21-23.

Also in the running, but not close on the leaders' heels, are surprising PBRJ Binangonan (45 points) of NCA president Ito Yñares and Boyboy Roa and crowd favorite Mulawin Argem Coliseum II and III (43.5 and 42 points, respectively) of former Isabela Rep. Rudy Albano, who was the 1999 Cocker of the Year.

The dreaded Thunderbird-Firefly IV of Big Dome owner Jorge "Nene" Araneta trails with 41.5 points while Romy Pamatmat's RFP Argem Coliseum follows with 39.5. Coming next with 38 points is RT 114 Geran Mapalad of Alex Escalona and friends, with MSK Binangonan of Ito Yñares and Manny Kho inching closer at 37.5, only one half point behind.

Also in the top 13 are San Pablo Heat (35) of Blandy Tolentino, Thunderbird-Firefly 8 (33) of the powerhouse Firefly Group, Nene Araneta's Thunderbird Firefly II (32) and Thunderbird Firefly 15 (31.5), also of the Firefly Group.

The Cocker of the Year earns accumulated points from 15 regular derbies and two World Slasher Cups. The COTY awardees include the biggest names in cockfighting such as Nene Araneta, who won the coveted title in 1994; Mario Villamor, who accomplished the feat in 1995; Jun "Idol" Santiago, winner of a rare back-to-back championship in 1996 and 1997; Patrick Antonio, who did it in 1998; and, of course, Rudy Albano, the runaway champion in 1999.

An authentic Philippine sport and the Filipinos' favorite pastime as well, cockfighting is enjoying enormous popularity because it is fair and honest. For example, with mere hand signals, bets, whether big or small, are paid promptly, something which even cynics find truly amazing. A certified crowd-drawer, cockfights are held almost daily in the country's more than 1,300 registered cockpits. On the other hand, regular big-time derbies are promoted at famous landmarks like the Araneta Coliseum, Roligon Mega Cockpit, Mandaluyong Coliseum and the Valenzuela Cockpit and Sports Arena in Malanday, the most popular cockpit north of Manila.

Runnex sets run Sunday

THE 18TH Runnex (Executive Runners Club) anniversary event will be held at 6 a.m. on Sunday in an out-and-back course on Elliptical Road, QC, going through the tree-shaded lanes of the UP Diliman campus.

The event—a half-marathon and 10-k and 5-k run—is being supported by Pharmaton capsules. It is open to all runners.

Registration is now in full swing from 5:30 to 7:30 a.m. at the Runnex shade, QC Memorial Circle or at 48 Scout Rallos St., QC, c/o Lulu Bercades (371-4445) and at 104 Matimtiman St., Sikatuna Village, QC, c/o Aida Buensuceso (922-7502). Registration deadline is at 5 p.m. on May 18.

Trophies and medals await winners while certificate of achievement, *sando*, snacks and other amenities will be given to all finishers.

Interested runners may contact Runnex president/race director Dr. Lito Duranat 911-9371 or 248-0288 for more details.

Pete optimistic

HAMBURG, Germany--Two consecutive first-round defeats have not dampened Pete Sampras' hopes of a first French Open title.

Sampras, who is seeking to complete a career Grand Slam and become only the sixth man to win all four majors, has suffered a disastrous start to the clay-court season, crashing out in the opening round of his first two tournaments.

GIANT KILLER

Spain's Alex Calatrava celebrates after beating Pete Sampras, 6-7 (3), 6-3, 6-4), Monday in the first round of the German Open Tennis Masters Series in Hamburg. Andre Agassi downed Italy's Davide Sanguinetti, 6-1, 6-4, in another match. AP

Soquino foils foe in netfest

CEBU -Janjie Soquino upset second pick Ian de Guzman 5-7, 6-4, 6-1, to neutralize the visitors' assault in the 2001 Milo Junior Tennis Cup & Regional Workshop here at Sancase Tennis Club.

Soquino advanced in the boys' 18-under division semifinals against another Manila bet Gino Bautista, who ousted Allan Alfafara 6-3, 7-5. The upper bracket pits Johan Guba, a 6-1, 6-1 winner over Carlo Oca, against James Dumoran, who tripped Arlou Soquino 6-4, 6-3.

Gerry Huyo-A created the other reversal following a 4-6, 6-1, 6-2 victory past No. 2 Julianito Jopia in the boys' 16-under class, to badge into the last four rounds.

Huyo-A takes on Davao's Joseph Maghanua, who edged King Solong, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6; while Oswaldo Dumoran tangles with Soquino for the other finals berth in the Milo netfest organized by the CTW and supported by Adidas and sports kids

TMS Open

THE PHILIPPINE Tennis Association will hold the TMS National Open on May 21-27 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. The country's top players are expected to join the tournament which will have a 64-man draw in the men's division and 32 in the women's division. Registration is ongoing at the Philta office (tel. 525-6434).

'Araw ng Kalayaan' derby stakes ₱5M

MANDALUYONG Coliseum's seven-day extravaganza dubbed "P5M Araw ng Kalayaan 7-Cock Derby" will begin on June 12

Also slated on June 14 16, 19, 21, 23 and 26, the event is attracting the attention of small-time and medium-scale cockers of Metro Manila,Cebu, Bacolod, Zamboanga and Iloilo due to the big prizes offered.

Participants are advised to make an early reservation on what day they want to fight, since only a maximum of 40 entries will be accommodated per elimination day. The finals is on June 26. Entry fee is P20,000 and interested parties may contact 534-4110, 531-4003 and 531-4005.

Meanwhile, submission of entries the "LCC Group 5-Cock Derby" start at 2 p.m. today. The event, hosted b big-time cocker Louie Cua and compan is set tomorrow, Thursday, May 1 with more than 50 fights expected.

Also, this year's second edition Mandaluyong International 9-Co Derby" sizzles on May 29, 31 and Ju 2, featuring more than 75 local and int national cockfighting stars. Derby ho are Ucap stalwarts Vic Yu and engine Sonny Lagon while major sponsors a Sagupaan Super Feeds and Red B Energy Drinks with Lakpue Drug as sponsor

National age group chess meet tomorrow

CLOSE to 400 hopefuls are expected to beat the deadline of registration tomorrow for the 2001 National Age Group Chess Championships.

Provincial entries may send their letters of confirmation and birth certificate by fax to (032) 929-3583 on or before the said date while participants from in and around Metro Manila may sign up at the Philippine Chess Center located at 71 Timog Avenue, Quezon City.

Through the kindness of Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) Chair Carlos Tuason, the first 100 provincial delegates that register will be accommodated at the PSC Complex in Pasig City free-of-charge.

The weeklong event patterned after the annual World Youth Chess Festival will be held at the Kaban ng Hiyas Auditorium of the Mandaluyong City Hall from Feb. 19-26.

Atop individual honors and monetary rewards, national master titles and norms will be at stake for the hopefuls.

The boys' and girls' champion in Under-20, U-18, U-16 will be given o right NM titles while the topnotchers the U-14, U-12 and U-10 brackets w be awarded NM norms.

Leading the charge of the favorite this 12 category 9-Round Swiss me are International Master Mark Parag Bernard Templo, Julius Joseph Ramos, Ivan Gil Biag, Nelson Mari III and 9-year-old Expedito Bolico for the boys' division.

Age group standouts Christ Castellano, Catherine Perena, Danielle Estrada, Teresa Marie Galang and Lu Dacayo are also expected to make resp able performances in the girls' skirmis

The said event is organized by Philippine Chess Society and held cooperation with the National Ch Federation of the Philippines.

Spearheading the project is tour ment director National Master Anto Calvo and international arbiter Ge Poliarco.

Cojuangco Cup flags off Sunday at Santa Ana

LOCAL racing's most coveted championship series flags off this Sunday at the Santa Ana Park as the Philippine Racing Commission (Philracom) jumpstarts the 2001 Triple Crown with the staging of the "Cojuangco Cup," the first leg of the triple race classic among the best three-year-old gallopers in the land.

"The Philracom is truly proud to once again spearhead the 24th running of this prized house racing tradition, a showcase of the local horse breeding industry in producing race horses of championship caliber," according to Philracom chair Benedicto K. Katigbak.

Fourteen starters are set to contest the first leg of this year's Triple Crown, which is traditionally held in honor of the Philracom's founding chair and the proponent of the local Triple Crown series, former Ambassador Eduardo M. Cojuangco Jr., who has been invited to grace the affair

"We are truly gratified that this year's Cojuangco Cup has attracted a complete field of 14 official starters, which is an indication of the quality and competitiveness of this year's crop of outstanding 3-year-olds," Katigbak explained.

Heading the hunt for the P1.6-Million Cojuangco Cup is early Triple Crown favorite Silver Story, last year's undisputed 2-year-old champion who plans to replicate the early feats of former juvenile and Triple Crown champions Strong Material (1996) and Real Top (1999).

The celebrated grey galloper won six major 2-year-old titles last year, including a sweep of three juvenile championships. Silver Story recently won the Philracom Commissioner's Cup and finished a fighting second in the marquee PCSO First Gentleman Silver Cup last month.

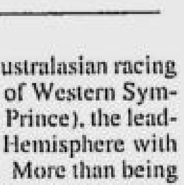
Standing in Silver Story's way for the crown are Batangas Entry, Bishop King, Flaming Bullet, Gutmoore, Hammerhead, Ilocandia Slew, Lord of All, Mr. Purao, Silver Rose, Sky Hawk, Speed Goddess, Speed Master and Staunch Ally.

Winner of the Cojuangco Cup is guaranteed to receive an added purse of P1 million out of the total pot, while the three other placers are assured of getting P375,000.00, P208,500.00 and P83,500.00 in additional prizes.

Anemometer

WHAT CAN I SAY

Bebo Quiros



THERE is a horse with an intriguing pedigree running in this weekend's Cojuangco Cup called Mr. Purao. Owned by Emilio S. Alviar, Jr. and bred by Fil Abuel, the Piker 3-yr-old colt, Mr. Purao would probably be simply remembered by the average racegoer as the upstart that gave the Conquistarose colt Silver Story, a run for his money in the Commissioner's Cup held a few months back. We doubt if many out there would bother to give a whiff as to his upbringing and background. Well, maybe a few.

Mr. Purao's dam, Anemometer, is an Irish-bred mare that was previously domiciled in Australia. She was originally purchased by our friend, Peter Setchell of Millfield Stud in New Zealand at the 1993 Sydney mixed sales in foal to Northern Jove (Northern Dancer). Unfortunately, the resultant foal died. She was then covered by Spectacular Love (Spectacular Bid) in the spring of 1993 and was bought for the Philippines in 1994.

Anemometer is a mare whose genetic inputs are replete with winners and/or placers of the Epsom Derby and the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. Born in 1984, Anemometer is by Morston, (1970, Ragusa - Windmill Girl by Hyperion), winner of the 1973 Epsom Derby, half-brother to Blakeney (1966, Hethersett - Windmill Girl by Hyperion) who also won the Epsom Derby in 1969. Anemometer's dam is Millimeter by Ribocco (1964, Ribot - Libra by Hyperion), winner of the 1967 Irish Sweeps Derby, runner-up in the 1967 Epsom Derby and fourth in 1967 Arc. Millimeter's dam is Millicent by Cornish Prince out of Milan Mill by Princequillo.

For those familiar with recent Australasian racing and breeding, Millicent is the dam of Western Symphony, dam sire of Sunline (Desert Prince), the leading money earner in the Southern Hemisphere with earnings of more than A$8million. More than being part and parcel of Sunline's heritage, more than being the dam of Western Symphony and his full brother, Moscow Ballet, the only successful Nijinsky II sons out of Bold Ruler-line mares, more than being the granddam of Fuji Kiseki (Sunday Silence), 1994 champion 2-yr-old in Japan, Millicent will always be referred to as the unraced half-sister to the great Mill Reef, 1971 European Horse of the Year, winner of the Derby, the Eclipse Stakes, the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes and the Arc, all as a 3-yr-old. Racing historians refer to Mill Reef as one of the top three horses to have raced in Europe since the second world war, the other two being Ribot and Sea Bird. Mill Reef is by Never Bend out Milan Mill by Princequillo. This is the Infra Red branch of the Black Ray No. 22 family. Other branches have produced the great Hyperion sire, Khaled, himself the sire of Kentucky Derby winner, Swaps, champion Australian sire, Pipe of Peace (Supreme Court), and champion Australian racehorse, Red Anchor (Sea Anchor).

Now how could Anemometer produce a son like Mr. Purao, a colt of extreme up-front speed when her pedigree is full of stout influences? Simple. One of the rules-of-thumb observed by those who practice linebreeding in the design of matings is that you can inbreed closely to a common progenitor through two or three closely related individuals to produce speed no matter how stoutly bred those progenitors are. Then breed out in the next generation.

Anemometer is by Morston (Ragusa, son of Ribot out of a Hyperion granddaughter) out of a mare by Ribocco(Ribot out of a Hyperion mare) and in pedigree short hand reads 3 male x 3 male Ribot, 4 male x 4 female, 6 female Hyperion. She also carries 5 female x 5 male Nasrullah. Note that Ribot won the Arc twice in 1955 and 1956 and in those days was considered Horse of the Century by the European racing press.

Mr. Purao is a 5-generation outcross via Piker, a Mr.Prospector dominant for speed which stood at Ochie Santos' farm. Coupled with Anemometer's inbreeding, we are not surprised where Mr. Purao's speed comes from. If he is in shape, Mr. Purao should be on the pace from the get-go when the gates fly open for the Cojuangco Cup this weekend. Good luck to his connections as well as to the connections of all the other participants. See you on Sunday.

Motocross goes to Guimaras

CALTEX Revtex Motorcycle Oil brings the fourth leg of the National Motocross Super Series 2001 to Guimaras Island Saturday. More than 100 riders from all over the country have confirmed their participation in the event organized by Hartebeest Entertainment Corp. and Kids Foundation, and sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association. Caltex Revtex-KTM team manager Rey Philip Trespalacioreal pledged full support to this second out-of-town leg of the motocross series. "We at Caltex believe in the spirit of friendly competition emanating from motor sports and we would give our best to support our motocross athletes," said Trespalacioreal.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA Conference Semifinals – Milwaukee vs Charlotte, Game 5 at 8 a.m. (r - 8 p.m.) on ESPN

Asian Basketball Show at 7 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

GOLF: PGA Verizon Byron Nelson Classic, Third Round at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

This is the PGA Tour at 3 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

TENNIS: Masters Series (Hamburg), Early Round Coverage Day #2 at 6 p.m. on ESPN

MOTOR SPORTS: Max Power at 6 p.m. on Star Sports

SBK World Superbikes Championship 2001 at 7:30 p.m. on Star Sports

Race Day - Austrian Grand Prix at 9 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

2001 F1 World Championships Austrian Grand Prix at 9:45 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

BASEBALL: Baseball Max at 1 p.m. on ESPN

SOCCER: Asian Football Show at 7 a.m. (r) on ESPN

Twins beat the Royals

MINNEAPOLIS—Joe Mays became the Minnesota Twins' third five-game winner, allowing six hits in seven innings to lead the AL Central leader over the Kansas City Royals, 3-1, Monday night. Mays (5-2), who struck out four and walked two, joined Brad Radke (6-1) and Eric Milton (5-2) to give the Twins three of the seven AL pitchers with five wins. *AP*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Tuason's formula

CHAIR Butch Tuason of the Philippine Sports Commission yesterday said the government should define the benefits in store for sponsors in order to attract monetary support from the private sector. Failure to do so, Tuason said, would prevent the private sponsors from coming in and shelling out the needed funding.

PBA ALL-FILIPINO FINALS

Ginebra seeks 3rd straight vs SMB

GAME TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
7:15 p.m.—Ginebra vs SMB

Series at a Glance
Game 1 – SMB 81, Ginebra 75
Game 2 – SMB 89, Ginebra 72
Game 3 – Ginebra 82, SMB 80
Game 4 – Ginebra 80, SMB 64

FOR Barangay Ginebra non-believers out there, coach Allan Caidic has some tough words: "Don't ever count us out."

Fueled by their two straight wins in their PBA All-Filipino Cup title series against San Miguel Beer, Caidic said that there's no stopping the Gin Kings now that they finally discovered how to beat the Beermen.

"Everybody is counting us out," Caidic said right after the Gins' 80-64 win in Game 4 last Friday. "We are just responding to the challenge. Now the guys are highly motivated to prove themselves."

The Gins and the Beermen clash today in Game 5 of the best-of-seven title playoffs at the Araneta Coliseum.

Ginebra lost Games 1 and 2 but recovered to take the next two games, proving their critics wrong that the series would be completely dominated by San Miguel.

"You were the ones who insisted that we are the favorites in the series," SMB coach Jong Uichico told reporters during Game 4's post-game interview in an effort to undermine the effects of their first back-to-back defeats in three months.

"Tonight, Ginebra outplayed and outhustled us, while Allan outcoached me," said Uichico. "But it is back to a virtual best-of-three and we've been in this situation before. This is not unfamiliar to us anymore."

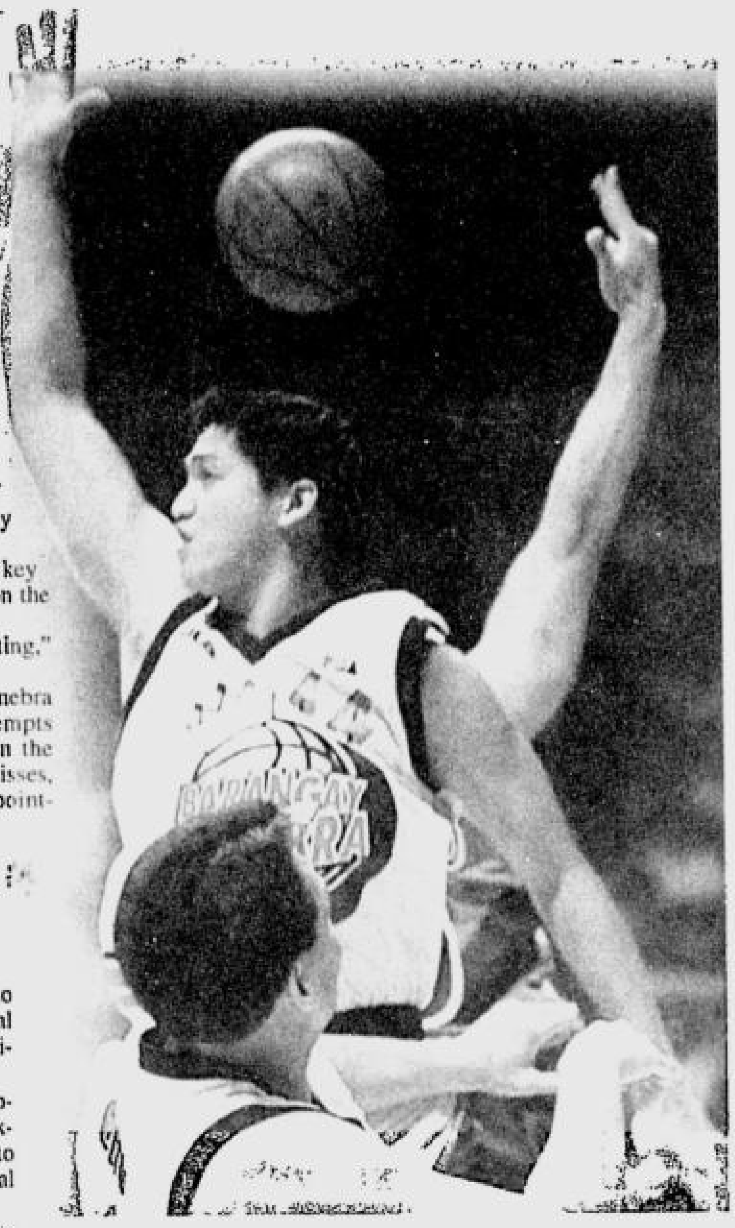
He was referring to their 1999 Commissioner's Cup Finals' experience where San Miguel posted a 2-0 lead over Shell, only to drop Games 3 and 4 before wrapping up the title by taking Games 5 and 6.

But to repeat that feat, the Beermen need to improve on their unbelievable 33 percent shooting (25-of-75) that was mainly caused by the shooting failure of gunners Danny Seigle (2-of-24) and Danny Ildefonso (3-of-10).

In fact, shooting percentage has been the key in the series. The team that shot well won the games.

"The figure is at least 50 percent shooting," said Uichico.

In Game 4, neither shot that well as Ginebra made just 47 percent of their total attempts (34-of-73). The Gin Kings prevailed in the end mainly because of SMB's repeated misses, some of them happening from almost point-blank range.



RONALD Magtulis of Barangay Ginebra appears like he's raising both his arms. He is not. The arm at right belongs to a player from San Miguel Beer. Also in photo is Ginebra's Wilmer Ong in the game won by the Gin Kings to forge a 2-2- deadlock. VAL HANDUMON

UP, Assumption win

Standings	W	L
Univ. of Assumption	4	1
UP-Waterfront	4	1
Regent Cheeseballs	3	2
Boysen-MLQU	2	2
Spring Cooking Oil	2	2
Gringo-Konica	2	3
Whiz Super Oil	1	4
NU	1	4

Games Today (Makati Coliseum)
1:30 p.m.—Regent vs Boysen-MLQU
3:15 p.m.—UP-Waterfront vs Whiz
5 p.m.—Spring Oil vs Konica

UNIVERSITY of the Philippines-Waterfront and University of the Assumption-Goldilocks prevailed over separate rivals yesterday to keep their share of the lead in the 1st Crystal Spring PYBL Title Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

The Hoteliers easily warded off the hapless Gringo-Konica, 59-43 while the Cake Experts held steadier in the final four minutes to escape with a 73-67 triumph over National University.

Both the Hoteliers and the Cake Experts now hold similar 4-1 cards.

Michael Bravo played another sterling performance of 17 points, five from the arc, and seven rebounds as UP-Waterfront pulled an 18-8 start and took the half, 36-15.

12 games today in Martin Cup

Games Today
(Philsports Arena)
10:00 a.m.— TIP vs UST B (Srs.)
11:30 a.m. — Letran vs San Beda B (Srs.)
1:00 p.m. — Angelicum vs UE (Srs.)
2:30 p.m. — SSC vs Mapua (Srs.)
(Araneta Coliseum)
5:00 p.m. — FEU vs UST A (Srs.
(PCU gym)
8:00 a.m.—UE vs FEU (Women's)
9:30 a.m.—PCU vs UE (Jrs.)
11:00 a.m.—Ateneo B vs Xavier (Jrs.)
12:30 p.m.—Ateneo A vs DLSZ (Jrs.)
2:00 p.m.—UNO vs UPHR (Jrs.)
3:30 p m.—Adamson vs LSGH
5:00 p.m.—UST vs San Beda B (Jrs.)

TWELVE games, including five in the senior division, will resume hostilities in the 7th Fr. Martin Cup invitational basketball tournament in three venues today.

UAAP rivals Far Eastern University and University of Santo Tomas clash at 5 p.m. in a senior match which serves as preliminary to the ongoing San Miguel Beer-Ginebra San Miguel PBA championship series at the Araneta Coliseum.

Over at the Philsports Arena, TIP faces UST B at 10 a.m., Letran meets San Beda B at 11:30, University of the East battles Angelicum at 2:30 p.m. and Mapua Tech goes up against San Sebastian College at 2:30 in senior contests.

FEU and UE collide in the lone women's match at 8 a.m at the PCU gym. The other games, all in the junior division, pit PCU against UE at 9:30, Xavier against Ateneo B at 11, DLSZ against Ateneo A at 12:30 p.m., UNO High against UPHR at 2, Adamson against LSGH at 3:30 and UST against San Beda B at 5 o'clock.

Meanwhile, the Tamaraws streaked to their fourth straight victory last Sunday by whipping San Beda B, 79-61, at the UE gym. Adamson nipped Philippine Christian University, 59-57, in another senior tiff.

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GIV Beauty Soap stops Shark

GAMES TOMORROW
(Makati Coliseum)
3:30 p.m.—Ateneo-Pioneer vs PharmaQuick
5:30 p.m.—Hapee Toothpaste vs Montaña

BY DENNIS U. EROA

GIV Beauty Soap snapped Shark's winning run with a stirring 76-63 victory last night at the start of the PBL Chairman's Cup quarterfinals at the Makati Coliseum.

Spirited Edwin Bacani shot 17 points but it was his defense on the high-scoring Chester Tolomia which spelled the big difference in the clash between sister-teams.

GIV improved its record to 6-3, while inflicting Shark its lone defeat in nine games.

Earlier, Hapee Toothpaste stunned PharmaQuick, 70-64, in Group B.

"Beating the leader makes me feel good," said GIV mentor Nat Canson

The victory avenged GIV's 53-50 setback to Shark in the elimination.

Unable to find his range in the face of Bacani's leech-like defense, Tolomia finished with only 11 points He went scoreless in the fourth period, which GIV completely dominated.

In the fourth, Marlon Kalaw, Eric de la Cuesta, Francis Sanz and Bacani pierced Shark's defenses as GIV posted a 71-58 lead, three minutes left.

Scores
Second Game

GIV 76—Bacani 17, Calo 12, De la Cuesta 11, Billones 8, Roldan 8, Kalaw 6, Sanz 6, Gumalay 6, Legaspi 1, Peña 1.

SHARK 63—Castro 13, Malabanan 13, Robinson 11, Tolomia 11, Sotto 7, Limare 4, Rodriguez 1, Ybañez 1, Gumpenberger 0, Balares 0, Basilides 0.

Quarters:21-20,38-38,55-52,76-63

Spurs battle Lakers for Western crown

SAN ANTONIO—The San Antonio Spurs have been called a WNBA team by Shaquille O'Neal, and had their 1999 championship discounted by Phil Jackson. Now the Los Angeles Lakers are going to find out how good the Spurs are.

Tim Duncan had 32 points and 20 rebounds as the Spurs cruised past the Dallas Mavericks, 105-87, Monday night to close their second-round series and send them to the Western Conference finals against the defending champion Lakers.

Their showdown, which will start Saturday in San Antonio, will be the first conference finals pitting the two previous NBA champions since 1985. It's only the fifth such matchup in NBA history.

After blowing a chance for a sweep Saturday in Dallas, the Spurs made it clear from the start that they didn't want to prolong the series. Duncan and David Robinson threw down dunks for San Antonio's first two baskets and the Spurs led by double digits within eight minutes on a 3-pointer by Danny Ferry.

A short jumper by Malik Rose in the closing seconds of the first quarter put San Antonio up by 11 and the Mavericks would never get that close again.

Dallas, which had won four straight elimination games this postseason, didn't have the energy—or accuracy—for a comeback.

The Mavericks resumed the inept shooting that cost them the first three games of the series, with Michael Finley missing 16 of 17 shots and Juwan Howard starting 2-for-12. Howard finished 5-of-16 for 14 points.They also shot 0-for-11 from 3-point range.

Dirk Nowitzki, playing with a new right front tooth to replace the one he lost in Game 4 Saturday, scored a career-high 42 points and had 18 rebounds. It was his fourth game with at least 30 points this postseason, the first in a loss.

The Mavericks, who in the first round became the sixth team to win a five-game series after losing the first two, became the 64th team unable to overcome an 0-3 deficit in a seven-game series.

But Dallas can feel good about its best season in 13 years. The Mavericks won 53 games and upset Utah in the first round after losing the first two games of the five-game series.

San Antonio opened by making 15 of its first 20 shots, then went almost as cold as Dallas from long range. It didn't matter, though, because Duncan, David Robinson and Antonio Daniels did their damage in the paint.

Robinson had 16 points and 14 rebounds, and Daniels scored 19 and had nine assists.

The Spurs' first six field goals of the second half all came within 2 feet of the rim. Their lead peaked at 22 during that third-quarter stretch. *AP*

Iverson to pocket MVP award

IVERSON

THE NBA will announce today that Allen Iverson is the league's most valuable player, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* said.

The 6-foot guard will walk away with his first MVP award, according to sources in the league office and the Sixers' organization.

Drafted as the top overall pick out of Georgetown in 1995, he is the shortest player in history to earn the honor. Before Iverson, 6-foot-1 Bob Cousy of the Boston Celtics was the shortest MVP in 1956-57.

Iverson averaged a league-leading 31.1 points per game to notch his second scoring title in just three seasons. It is believed the pesky guard beat out Shaquille O'Neal, Chris Webber, Tim Duncan and Kevin Garnett.

In leading Philly to the best record in the Eastern Conference at 56-26, Iverson thrived under an improved relationship with coach Larry Brown and overcame multiple injuries to carry the Sixers to the playoffs.

Iverson scored 40 or more points 17 times, including a pair of 50-point efforts, and averaged 4.6 assists, 3.9 rebounds and 2.5 steals per game.

The last Philadelphia player to be named MVP was center Moses Malone in 1982-83. *AP*

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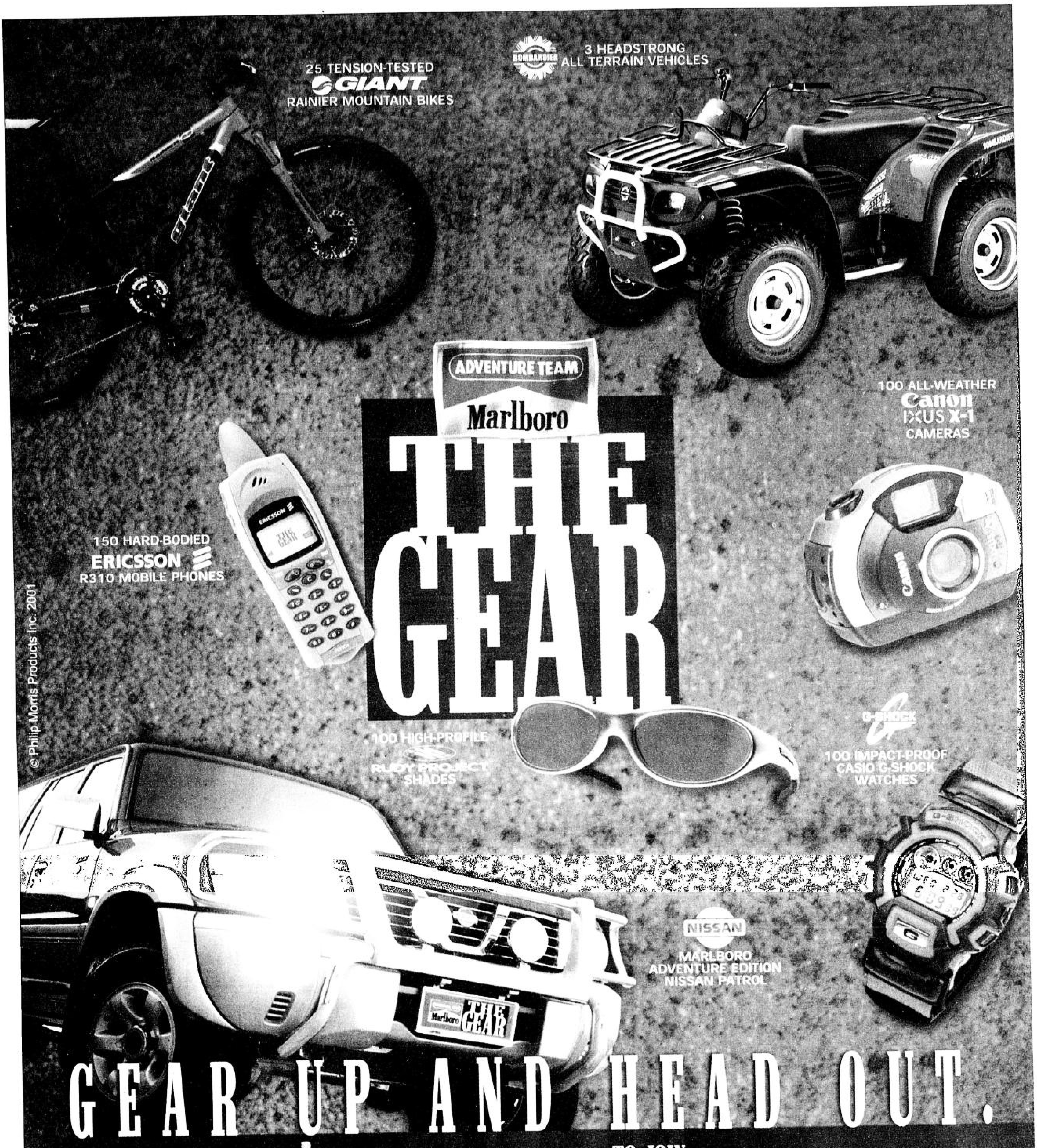

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1. Promotion period is from May 14 - July 1, 2001.
2. Only smokers 18 years old and above (as of May 14, 2001), who are Philippine residents, can enter the MAT "The Gear" promotion.
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4. Only genuine and original Marlboro King Size packs – locally produced by La Suerte Cigar & Cigarette Factory, purchased in the Philippines, and bearing the Philippine Government health warning and pack seal – with complete information requested in item 3, will be accepted as valid raffle entries.
5. No photocopies will be allowed. All entry forms will become the property of Philip Morris Philippines, Inc.
6. Drop your entries in drop boxes at authorized retail outlets/drop centers or mail to: MAT "The Gear" Promotion. P.O. Box 1299, Makati City
7. All entries must be received not later than July 9, 2001. Philip Morris Philippines, Inc. and its agents will have no responsibility for lost, illegible, incomplete, mutilated or late entires.
8. The draw will be held on July 16, 2001 in the presence of a DOH-BFAD representative. The following prizes will be drawn: (1) Special Edition Nissan Patrol (3) Bombardier ATV (25) Giant Mountain Bikes (100) Canon Ixus X-1 Cameras (100) Casio G-Shock watches (100) Rudy Project Shades (150) Ericsson R310 Mobile Phones
9. The names of the winners will be published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer on July 31, 2001. Winners will be notified via telegram as to when and where they can claim their prizes.
10. Prizes will only be awarded to the person whose name appears on the winning entry. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from publication, announcement or notification of winners, whichever comes last, will be forfeited with the written approval of the DOH-BFAD.
11. In claiming a prize, the winner must present the notification telegram and provide two (2) valid documents of identification [birth certificate, driver's license, passport, SSS, NBI clearance].
12. In case the winner fails to secure valid documents of identification, the winner should present the following:
    - 12.1 An affidavit executed by at least two (2) disinterested persons attesting to his/her identity.
    - 12.2. Certification from the Barangay/Municipality/City official verifying that he/she is a resident of the barangay/municipality/city.
13. In cases where the winner, for acceptable reasons, cannot personally claim his/her prize, he/she can send a proxy on his/her behalf. The proxy should present a letter of authorization prepared and signed for by the winner. This should be submitted with the notification telegram sent by Philip Morris Philippines, Inc. and two (2) valid Ids of the winner. The proxy should also bring two (2) original and valid documents to prove his/her identity.
14. An entrant can only win once. If a name is drawn more than once, the winner will receive the prize of a higher value and a winner for the other prize will be re-drawn.
15. Prizes will be supplied with standard dealers' warranties only, where available. Philip Morris Philippines, Inc. will not be liable to winners for any costs, expenses, or any liabilities arising out of the receipt or use of any of the prizes. Final Prizes are not transferable or convertible to cash.
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Bagatsing	6,799
Vice Mayor	
Lacuna	17,350
Dionisio	6,202
Gernale	3,544
CALOOCAN	
As of 10:50 am	
Mayor	
Asistio	2,640
Malonzo	2,477
PARANAQUE	
As of 5:00 pm	
Mayor	
Marquez	25,601
Olivares	21, 606
MALABON	
As of 5:45 pm, 572 precincts	
Mayor	
Vicencio	23,377
Marcelo	11,614
Congressman	
Sandoval	17,542
Oreta	15,095
MUNTINLUPA	
As of 5:40 p.m.	
Mayor	
Fresnedi	35,245
Masangkay	25,692
Congressmen	
Biazon	28,581
Bunye	27,638
VALENZUELA	
As of 11:20 am, 110 precincts	
Mayor	
Carlos	6,803
De Guzman	4,165
Demafelis	1,382
LAS PIÑAS	
As of 6 pm	
Mayor	
Aguilar	3,477
Gonzales	29

Comelec, brownouts delay canvassing

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC, JEROME ANING, ALCUIN PAPA, ANISSA APOLINARIO, JP ANDAQUIG, MYLA TORRES, IRENE CURTIS, LORRAINE SANTOS, ALLISON LOPEZ AND MARGE TEODOSIO

THE COMMISSION on Elections (Comelec) yesterday put off the official counting of votes in Manila, prompting public school teachers, poll watchers and supporters of local candidates to protest what they called the "mysterious delay."

In some cities in Southern Metro Manila, brownouts stalled the counting of votes.

The Manila office of the Comelec yesterday said the canvassing of votes would only start at 8 a.m. today, after poll officials and representatives of candidates agreed to allow the teachers and poll watchers a rest.

Monday night, Comelec officials announced that tabulation of votes at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium in Manila would start at 8 a.m. yesterday.

The postponement of the canvassing to today was announced about noon yesterday when Comelec officials requested poll watchers who were at the Aquino stadium as early as 6 a.m. yesterday to leave the premises.

Officials also ordered for the transfer of envelopes containing election returns from the stadium floor to the bleachers' section, which was then occupied by hundreds of poll watchers.

Ballot boxes from Manila's 6th and 5th district had not yet arrived at the canvassing site.

Seven candidates are vying for Manila's mayoral post, and 23 are aspiring for congressional seats in the city's six districts. There are 932,806 voters in Manila's 895 barangays.

COMELEC/A26

GO OUT AND VOTE!
ONWARD
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ANTI-RIOT policemen protect Caloocan City Hall. *Story on Page A26* EDWIN BACASMAS

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Cowboy Grill Remedios St. Malate	GOALKEYS FEEDBACK	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 521.8143
Cowboy Grill Novaliches Q.C.	MAEGAN AGUILAR SWEET BLOOD/BROWNIE	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 936.9757
KAMPO 2086 #47 West Avenue Q.C.	MAGIC TOUCH POLICY/EDGE	P 200 CONSUMABLE ☎ 373.5110
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1186, Series of 2001

'People power' in Caloocan, Pasay

By Christian V. Esguerra, Alcuin Papa and Louie Jon Sanchez

IT'S people power time again.

Caloocan City residents yesterday staged a protest rally in front of the city hall and accused reelectionist Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo of cheating by delaying Monday's elections.

In Pasay City, supporters of mayoral candidate Ricardo "Ding" Santos gathered in front of the Cuneta Astrodome to denounce the alleged cheating in the counting of votes by incumbent Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad.

The Caloocan protesters, led by party-list group Sanlakas, claimed city hall officials, following Malonzo's orders, deliberately delayed the distribution of election paraphernalia.

Jess Panes, member of the Sanlakas national council, said most of the areas where election had been disrupted were bailiwicks of the party-list group.

He said that in two polling precincts at the Kasarinlan Elementary School, Malonzo's men deliberately removed the name of Sanlakas in the official tally sheet.

But Malonzo denied the allegations and said the protesters were not members of Sanlakas but were sent by Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio to create trouble.

"Legitimate members of Sanlakas would not do anything like this," Malonzo said.

Asistio, too, said he did not have anything to do with the protesters.

Panes said Malonzo orchestrated the delay since city treasurer Lourdes Jose, who had been tasked to distribute the election materials, is under the authority of the mayor.

Elections were set yesterday at the A. Bonifacio Elementary School and Macario Asistio Sr. High School in the 1st district, and Pangarap High School, Tala High School, Bagong Silang, Camarin-D, Celeto Zamora, and schools in the Kabukiran 3 area, all located in the 2nd district.

Elections in Tala started at 4 p.m., an hour after the extended election was scheduled to end.

Election materials arrived in Bagong Silang at noon yesterday.

As of 10 a.m., affected precincts in the 2nd district had yet to receive official ballots, election returns, and other materials, according to Irene Villanueva of A. Bonifacio Elementary School.

Tension gripped Bagong Silang Unit 1 Elementary School at about 5 a.m. yesterday when alleged poll watchers of Malonzo reportedly prevented the delivery of election returns to the Caloocan Main City Hall.

Malonzo's men allegedly blocked 10 vehicles carrying the returns. When the teachers insisted on delivering the returns, a poll watcher allegedly ordered that the gates be closed.

In Pasay City, the protesters, who numbered less than a hundred, also asked for the resignation of reelectionist Mayor Trinidad.

The supporters of mayoral bet Santos gathered at about 4 p.m. after his poll watchers walked out of the Cuneta Astrodome where votes in the city were being counted.

They staged an impromptu program outside where speakers took turns denouncing the alleged cheating. They also played music from a hastily formed stage and danced in the streets.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, May 16, 2001
5th Week of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 15:1-6
Gospel: Jn 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine and my Father is the vinegrower. If any of my branches doesn't *bear fruit*, he breaks it off; and he prunes every branch that does *bear fruit*, that it may bear even *more fruit*.

You are already made clean by the word I have spoken to you; live in me as I live in you. The branch cannot *bear fruit* by itself but has to remain part of the vine; so neither can you if you don't remain in me.

I am the vine and you are the branches. As long as you remain in me and I in you, you *bear much fruit;* but apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not remain in me is thrown away as they do with branches and they wither. Then they are gathered and thrown into the fire and burned.

If you remain in me and my words in you, you may ask whatever you want and it will be given to you. My Father is glorified when you *bear much fruit:* it is then that you become my disciples."

Commentary:

Today begins the discourse on the vine and the branches. This Johannine metaphor shows the call for Jesus' disciples to be intimate with him. If at the beginning of their calling they were summoned to be with him, as time went on, the invitation and demand became to be in him and he in them. Most of us were baptized as infants. As adult believers, have we learned to be deliberately with the Lord to grow in that intimacy with him? Are we able to discover with Jesus God's ways of pruning us from our selfish desires that prevent us from doing the work of God since we have not known the God of work with and in Jesus the Christ?

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Writ of certiorari—The prerogative writ of certiorari does not lie to correct every controversial interlocutory order but is confined merely to questions of jurisdiction. Its function is to keep an inferior court within its jurisdiction and to relieve persons from arbitrary acts, meaning acts which courts or judges have no power or authority in law to perform. It is not designed to correct procedural errors or the court's erroneous findings and conclusions. However, certiorari can properly be resorted to where the factual findings complained of are not supported by the evidence on record. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Melo, Third Division, Ong v. People, G. R. NO. 140904, October 9, 2000]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

Start cleaning up, Abalos tells mayors

By Nelson F. Flores

METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. yesterday urged all city and town mayors in the metropolis to begin removing the mounds of garbage that sprouted in their areas during the election period.

Abalos, who led a team of MMDA personnel in cleaning Edsa, said the mayors should begin the cleanup as soon as possible to prevent the accumulation of waste, especially on major thoroughfares. He said the garbage should be recycled, if possible, or properly disposed.

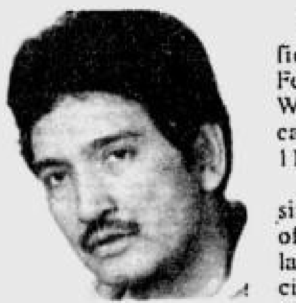
He said the trash left by the elections was an "eyesore."

Abalos said that unless Metro Manila is cleaned, the MMDA cannot start implementing its waste segregation scheme.

The MMDA temporarily canceled the implementation of the waste segregation scheme early this month due to the big volumes of garbage produced by thousands of supporters of ousted President Estrada during their six-day rally at the Edsa Shrine and their bloody march to Malacañang on Labor Day.

Fernandez, too, cries fraud in Quezon City

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez


FERNANDEZ

THE CAMP of Quezon City mayoral candidate Rudy Fernandez accused administration candidate Sonny Belmonte of massive election fraud.

Fernandez's running mate, Herbert Bautista, said they were consulting with their lawyers on what action to take against Belmonte.

Earlier yesterday, three alleged supporters of Belmonte, the former speaker, were caught carrying ballot boxes reportedly containing stashed ballots.

The three were identified as Perlita Aquino, Felicidad de la Cruz and Walter Lansan. They were caught outside precinct 1192-A on E. Rodriguez.

Tension further intensified when the city board of canvassers headed by lawyer Alioden Daloy decided to adjourn the tallying of election returns even before they could start the counting.

"This is very unusual," Bautista said in a phone interview. "Under the law, once the ballot box is brought to the canvassing area, then it should be opened and the counting should immediately follow."

Mark Caguioa, 'Pinoy ito'

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

LISTEN, you fans out there. Mark Caguioa, the blonde rookie sensation of the PBA, is as Pinoy as Marka Demonyo, the original native label of the strong gin drink his team sells.

If they ask Caguioa to wash the foreign tint off his head, a hefty bush of black native hair would resurface.

The boy doesn't use a single English word when he calls home in Los Angeles to report to *tatay* and *nanay* about his incredible rise to stardom in his country of birth.

When he got the chance, he joined the last Black Friday procession around Mandaluyong and was observed to break from the line to kiss the hands of elders in Barangay Vergara, where he was born and spent his boyhood before leaving for California with his parents when he turned 10.

It's therefore very odd that sports reporters continue to refer to Caguioa as a Fil-Am.

* * *

The slip is forgivable.

But a correction is in order because of a fearful misconception.

Mark's hordes of fans, who would rise as one and chant his native name during the crucial homestretch, might think that a Pinoy cannot excel unless he has some Yankee blood running in his veins.

Truth is, Mark would have not grown tough, quick and sharp if he was indeed born with golden locks.

Any imported component in his native genes would have marred the boy's lovable athletic design.

Correction. There's indeed a bit of foreign blood in Mark but this is purely Chinese, and maybe of the sensational degree that had defined the maturity and greatness of other Pinoys before us.

* * *

Mark's family tree shows that he descended, on the father side, from a big-bodied village fisherman, Macario Ahilion, a stern, nononsense Caviteño who fished and ruled the Pasig River as though it were his kingdom.

Mark, therefore derived heft and Tagalog poise from his ancestors, among the early settlers in his native riverside Mandaluyong.

The boy, however, has some strong Pangasinense blood courtesy of his immediate grandpa, the martial arts teacher Pering Caguioa, a native of San Carlos who now resides in California with wife Rosy, granddaughter of the big-bodied fisherman.

Pering's eldest son, Ric or Kadoy, a solid, stocky inter-barrio basketball star, is Mark's father.

Mark, however, clearly takes his tall features after his mother, Remy, whose Chinese elders, the Chus, were known for their lean height.

Mark's happy biology has been rounded up with flash and flair that he derived from playing street ball with Negro kids in California neighborhoods.

Mark was always quick to swear that he really allowed himself to be immersed in the caging style and rudiments of his Negro opponents.

He did not only borrow these gifts, he sort of stole them.

In fact, when told that he would have commanded greater pay had he first played at least a season with the PBL, Mark said it would have been a great loss on his part. Reason: That extra year he stayed behind in California was spent picking up new moves from his talented Negro playmates.

* * *

So, if there's anything foreign in the boy, it's the pervasive pulse in his game, a trait that's been the trademark of practically all gifted Negro cagers.

With his inimitable design—genes, hairdo, ancestry, upbringing, etc.—it's easy to suspect that Mark Caguioa would not have excelled and shone here at home if he had not honed his native skills in America.

That prognosis is hard to contest.

But it should also be mentioned here that Caguioa, other than being trained by his father and a visiting uncle to use the so-called wrong foot in the game, has thrived on a solid game philosophy.

It was like this. His debut in the PBA ended up a mini horror after he played tight.

He went for the basket at the slightest opening. *Nag-suwapang.*

Upon returning to Vergara, he got some mild scolding. He was told to settle down. Don't try to show everything in one dash.

He was also told to embrace a fool-proof game philosophy: Do things that would be good for your team, not only for yourself.

Mark nodded and vowed to follow instructions.

Weaned in the rugged California sandlots, he obeyed like a Filipino kid of old.

Thank God, Mark Caguioa is no Fil-Am.

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Comelec, brownouts . . .

(From page A25)

Roberto Misajon, a volunteer for the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting who was assigned at the Apolinario Mabini Elementary School, said that he and other PPCRV volunteers had been at the Aquino stadium since Sunday.

The volunteers, however, did not leave the stadium when the postponement of the canvassing was announced. They chose to wait for their relievers saying that they wanted to ensure that the election results and ballot boxes would not be stolen or tampered with.

In Muntinlupa, power failure delayed the counting of votes in Putatan and Cupang. Brownouts were also reported in the Itaas Elementary School in Barangay Poblacion and the Lakeview Homes Elementary School.

Residents in these areas wondered why the power failure hit only the schools.

Counting was suspended and resumed only yesterday morning.

In Parañaque, canvassing of votes started only about 5 p.m. after delays in the counting at the precinct level.

There was also no electricity inside the Parañaque City complex where counting was held.

Brownouts were also reported in Tambo and Baclaran, also in Parañaque.

In Las Piñas, canvassing started at about 9:30 a.m. also because of delays in the counting at the precinct level. But the local Comelec office has not posted any election results.

Brownouts were also reported in Talon 4 in Las Piñas.

In Pasay City, counting at the precinct level also stalled the canvassing at the municipal level. The counting resumed only yesterday morning.

In Makati City, the canvassing of votes was set to start on Monday evening, but was reset by the Comelec to Tuesday morning. Poll officials said they needed to install more electric fans at the Valenzuela Sports complex where the counting was being held.

But the Partido Demokratikong Pilipino-Lakas ng Bayan (PDP-Laban) expressed concern over the delay and said in a statement "this could raise suspicions on the accuracy and the integrity of the official count."

The mayoral candidate of the party is former Makati mayor Jejomar Binay, husband of incumbent mayor Elenita.

In the past elections, the canvassing of votes in Makati immediately followed the close of precincts and the winners were known the following morning, Binay's statement said. The Comelec usually proclaimed the local winners that same day, it added.

Makati only has a voting population of about 346,000, and had always been the first local government unit in Metro Manila where the winners were known and proclaimed 24 hours after the close of elections, the statement said.

Charges of fraud were also reported in some areas.

Lawyer Rafaelito Garayblas, spokesman of former Manila mayor Alfredo Lim and Atienza's rival denounced the elections in Manila as fraught with "massive fraud."

He said that massive vote buying and cheating in all districts of Manila were committed with the help of barangay officials.

Atienza spokesman and Manila city legal officer Melchor Monsod said: "They should just wait for the final outcome of the elections instead of resorting to spurious and baseless claims of massive fraud.

In Pasig City, election inspectors Merlyn Fabella, 37, of Barangay Maybunga, and Hyacinth Antos, 26, of Cainta, Rizal were arrested yesterday for allegedly tampering with a ballot box.

Both are members of the Pasig board of election inspectors assigned at a precinct in the Maybunga Elementary School.

In Parañaque, a supporter of mayoral candidate Pablo Olivares caught Tess Tolentino, said to be a city hall employee, bringing out from the Parañaque gym a brown envelope marked "used ballots."

Tolentino was invited for questioning at the Parañaque police station. She told police she brought out the ballots only to look for the teachers who counted them.

Supporters of Muntinlupa mayoral candidate Beth Masangkay said the brownouts were evidence of cheating.

Smoking can lead to deportation

By TJ Burgonio

AN ENGLISHMAN was deported shortly after his arrival in Manila yesterday afternoon for refusing to put out his cigarette and for cursing an immigration officer at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Michael John Carruthers, 49, was placed on a return flight to Singapore hours after he arrived at 2 p.m. on board Singapore Airlines. He was supposed to visit his Filipino wife, Miriam Carruthers, of Tuguegarao, Cagayan.

He initially refused to budge but agreed to go with the airline crew when told that he could smoke in the airline office.

While lining up at the immigration arrival check-in counter, Carruthers was seen casually puffing at his cigarette. Immigration officer Rudy David told him to put out his cigarette since it was a no-smoking area.

Carruthers, who seemed drunk according to witnesses, reportedly replied, "Bulls—t. What's the problem with my smoking?"

David said he politely asked the foreigner to go with him to the other end of the arrival area and throw away his cigarette, which the latter did.

But as soon as David and other immigration officers had turned their back on him, Carruthers lit another cigarette and started blowing smoke in their direction. This prompted the officers to order his exclusion.

Smoking is strictly prohibited in the airport premises and smokers are fined P1,100.

DIAZ

Newscaster robbed in QC

By Philip C. Tubeza

WHILE ABS-CBN broadcast journalist Henry Omaga Diaz was busy covering Monday's elections, robbers broke into his house in Quezon City and stole more than P240,000 worth of valuables.

Diaz was not home when robbers broke into his house at 507 Azul St., Villa Verde Subdivision, Novaliches, Quezon City around lunchtime Monday, said investigator PO3 Oliver Estrelles of the Novaliches police station.

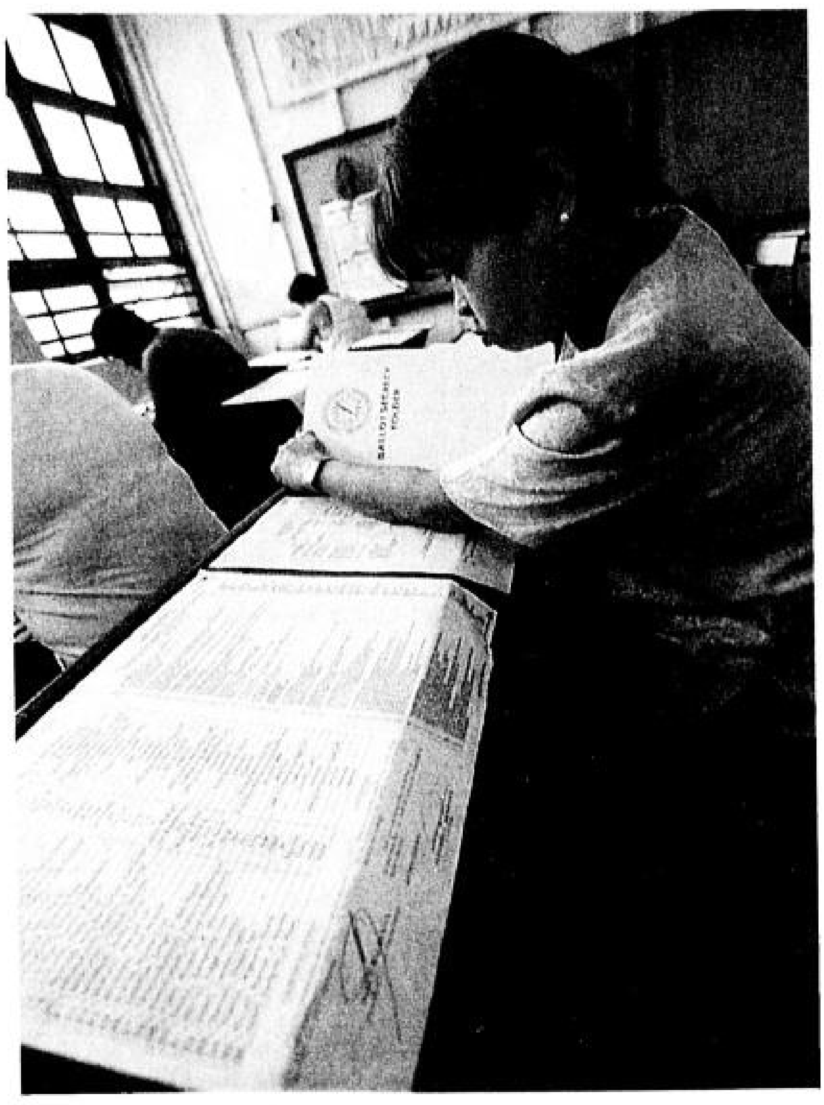
The robbers took two IBM laptop computers worth P240,000, a P5,000 cellular phone, cash and several pieces of jewelry, Estrelles said.

He said the robbers struck between 12 p.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Brian Aguihon, Diaz's helper, was also not home because he ate lunch outside, the investigator said.

He said the robbers destroyed the window grills in the master bedroom.

PO2 Sigfredo Sevilla of the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory in Camp Crame went to Diaz's house to find out if the robbers left any evidence that might led to their identification.



NO HINDRANCE
Her disability did not prevent this unidentified woman from going to the Geronimo Santiago Elementary School in San Miguel, Manila to cast her vote on Monday. VAL HANDUMON

SJ candidates accuse JV of massive fraud

By Agnes E. Donato

THE ADMINISTRATION candidates in San Juan yesterday called on the Commission on Elections to declare a failure of elections in the town.

The group, led by congressional candidate Ronald Estella, who is a former broadcast journalist, accused the camp of mayoral aspirant Joseph Victor Ejercito of massive fraud and vote-buying.

Estella said his party, Lakas ng San Juan, banded together with other local parties to protest the alleged cheating by Ejercito. The united parties would mobilize supporters to join a protest rally in front of the San Juan town hall yesterday afternoon, he said.

"It will not only be my group which we will be conducting the protest," Estella claimed. "We will be joined even by the group of Congressman Jose Mari Gonzalez and the others."

He said his group would also file a formal complaint and ask the Comelec to stop the canvassing of votes and hold special elections in San Juan.

He particularly complained of the power interruption that hit the town about 8:30 p.m. Monday.

He claimed he was "leading by a very wide margin" before a power failure hit the Pinaglabanan Elementary School where counting was being held. Estella is running against former Executive secretary Ronald Zamora.

"But when the power returned, I was already behind by thousands of votes," Estella said. "The ballots being read were like sample ballots, the names of the candidates were arranged in the same order.

"Apparently, there was a ballot switching while the power was gone."

Ejercito denied involvement in the power interruption, saying he had no reason to cheat because he was in the lead even before the brownout.

Supt. Emerson Lorenzo of the San Juan police said there had been two power interruptions in Barangay Pinaglabanan.

The first power failure occurred at 8:30 p.m. and lasted until an hour. The second came at 12:30 a.m. and lasted until 3 a.m.

Witnesses said they heard a gunshot just before the power was cut off.

But school principal Jeannette Gao said the brownout was only caused by electrical overload.

Pasay cop accidentally shoots self, 2 others in raid

A PASAY policeman wounded himself and two others when he accidentally fired his M-16 rifle during an illegal gambling raid in Pasay City early yesterday.

The policeman was identified as PO1 Oliver Bati, 25, a member of the PNP-Special Action Force assigned to Police Community Precinct (PCP 5). He was hit in the right foot.

He also accidentally wounded his companions, PO1 Joseph Gonzales, 30, assigned to PCP-9, and Elvin Tristran Garero, 45, sports editor of Sentro Diyaryo. Gonzales sustained a gunshot wound in the right leg while Garero was hit in the left thigh.

Investigators said the two policemen, with two other officers, had been sent by SPO4 Cresencio Manabat to Magtibay Street in Pasay City to verify a report that a group of men were engaged in illegal gambling (*cara y cruz*).

When police arrived, the suspects scampered in different directions. The policemen chased them but the players managed to escape.

When the policemen returned to their vehicle, a group of bystanders threw stones at them, hitting PO1 Bati. Bati lost his balance and accidentally squeezed the trigger of his automatic gun, hitting himself and PO1 Gonzales.They were brought to the Pasay City General Hospital for treatment.

Spent M-16 shells and stones were recovered at the scene, investigators said.

Charges of reckless imprudence resulting in physical injuries were being prepared against Bati. *Alcuin Papa, Margarette Teodosio and Allison Lopez*

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HELPING HANDS ROGER MARGALLO

An old woman got assistance from two relatives when she voted in a polling precinct at the Almanza Uno Elementary School in Las Piñas.

Lawmen arrest another armed man in Veterans

By Philip C. Tubeza

TWO days after lawmen caught three supporters of a Laguna mayor trying to enter the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City with handguns and a knife, police arrested a taxi driver who reportedly had a *sumpak* (homemade shotgun) in his cab.

Driver Cesar N. Balboja, 39, of 224 Purok St. Anthony, Antipolo City, was arrested after the police discovered the shotgun as he was about to drive into the VMMC Monday night, said investigator PO1 Renato Hamor of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit (CPD-CIU).

Deposed President Estrada and his son, San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, are confined in the hospital.

Besides the homemade shotgun, police also found three M16 bullets in the suspect's Wallace taxi, a silver Toyota Corolla XL (PXG 432), said Hamor.

He said Balboja was about to take two commuters into the hospital when he was arrested at 7:45 p.m. Monday at Gate 1 of the VMMC.

PO1 John John Dalonsan, of the CPD mobile unit, saw the shotgun and the bullets between the driver's seat and the front passenger seat as he was inspecting the taxi, Hamor said.

When confronted, Balboja could not produce any document proving his ownership of the firearm or a Commission on Elections (Comelec) gun ban exemption, Hamor said.

The driver was later brought to the CPD headquarters in Camp Karingal at Sikatuna Village in Quezon City.

Police charged him with illegal gun possession and violating the Comelec gun ban before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office, Hamor said.

The fiscal set Balboja's bail at P92,000 for the two charges, Hamor added.

On Saturday night, police arrested Los Baños, Laguna residents Cesar L. Moldez, 41; Antonio T. Avelino, 31; and Hugo L. Ramos, 76; after two handguns, and a fan knife were found in their car when they tried to enter VMMC.

They said they were supporters of Los Baños Mayor Francisco Lapis and they were supposed to fetch him from the hospital that night.

Gonzalez denies 'private army'

By Agnes E. Donato and Nickson Ryan Matias

REELECTIONIST San Juan Rep. Jose Mari Gonzalez offered to be a state witness against the 68 alleged Army reservists who were arrested Sunday night, police said yesterday.

According to Rodrigo de Gracia, San Juan police chief, Gonzalez came to the police station on Monday night and denied involvement with the armed group.

"He (Gonzalez) denied that he hired the group to guard his votes," De Gracia said. "He told me he knew only one of them."

Gonzalez reportedly admitted that he knew the alleged leader of the group, a certain Jess Vera, said to be a reserved officer.

A police officer, who asked not to be named, said Gonzalez also visited the 68 suspects and talked to them. He reportedly assured them that they need not worry as they would get lawyers.

Police said they recovered from the suspects 19 assorted firearms and Gonzalez's campaign paraphernalia, among other things. The men were initially detained at the San Juan police station and were later transferred to Camp Crame in Quezon City.

Charges of usurpation of authority, falsification of public documents and violation of the Commission on Elections gun ban will be filed against them.

San Juan mayoral aspirant Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito said: "I was alarmed when I heard that armed men have been roaming around town. My family (Estradas) has been governing San Juan for 30 years, but no election-related violence has occurred."

Former Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora also corroborated an earlier report that the Romoagan Building in Mandaluyong City, where 50 of the 68 men were caught, was owned by a brother of Gonzalez.

"The Romoagan Building is owned by Roque Gonzalez, Jose Mari's brother," Zamora said.

Boy who asked mom for computer hangs self

By Alcuin Papa, Allison Lopez, and Margarette Teodosio

DENIED when he requested his parents for a computer, a 15-year-old boy allegedly committed suicide in Pasay City yesterday.

Allan Sy, of 2686 Taft Ave., was discovered hanging from the ceiling in the stockroom by houseboy Jobel Rebosa at 10:45 a.m., police said.

Sy was rushed to the Manila Sanitarium and Hospital where he was declared dead on arrival.

PO1 Joey Salazar of the Pasay City Police said the houseboy, a 22-year-old native of Dumaguete City, went to the stockroom to get plastic bags when he found the boy.

Rebosa said in Filipino that the boy seemed troubled in the past few days.

The boy's mother, Mary Sy, 43, said that the night before, her son asked her for a computer which she denied, saying that he must first study well.

The boy's body was brought to the National Bureau of Investigation for autopsy.

PSG member shoots guard

By Roselle Aguilar

A MEMBER of the Presidential Security Group shot and wounded a security guard Monday morning in Makati City after he mistook the guard for the snatcher who took his cellular phone.

Police said Sgt. Benjamin Guanzon, 38, shot and wounded Generoso Pedrosa, 47, of 1861 Steve Street, Barangay Manggahan, Commonwealth, Quezon City.

Guanzon, of Cadena de Amor Street, Barangay Pembo, Makati City, immediately surrendered to Makati police.

As Guanzon was waiting for a ride at the Guadalupe overpass shortly after midnight, a man grabbed his cell phone, police said. Guanzon said he chased the snatcher and with his .45 caliber pistol shot a man he took to be the robber.

No texting for now for this SAF man and his girlfriend

By Philip C. Tubeza

PO1 BERNARD S. Villena and his girlfriend won't be able to send love notes to each other through text messaging for some time. Monday night, robbers took their cellular phones while they were strolling at the Quezon Memorial Circle (QMC).

The incident happened two days after teenaged robbers snatched a policewoman's mobile phone while she was waiting for a ride near the QMC.

Villena, a member of the PNP Special Action Force, and his unidentified girlfriend lost their Nokia 3210 cellular phones to four men, said desk officer SPO4 Edmund Senido of the Kamuning police station.

Villena and his girlfriend were strolling in the QMC park grounds when the robbers struck at 10:50 p.m. Monday, Senido said.

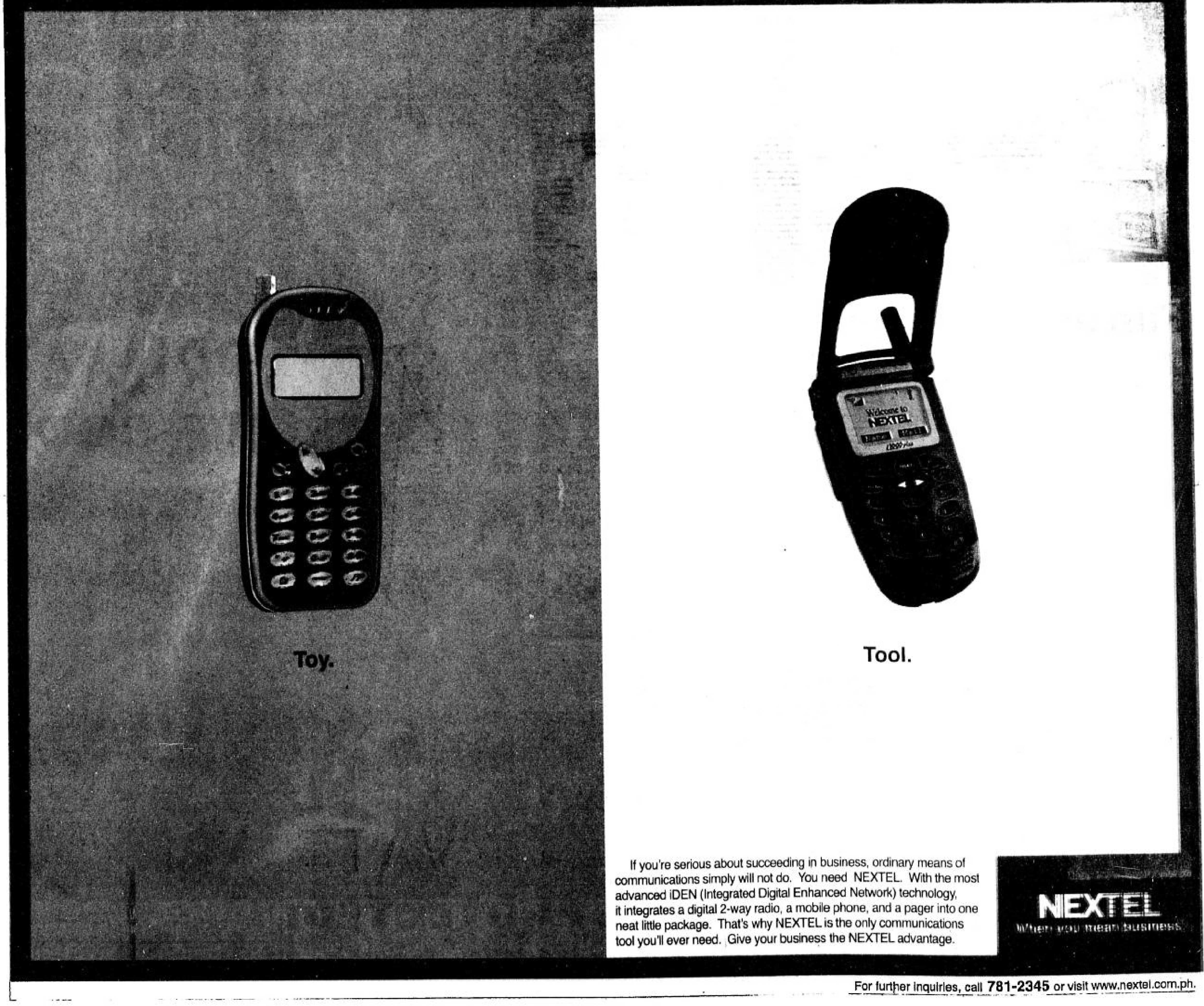
He said the four men suddenly appeared from out of the darkness and surrounded the couple and, while brandishing fan knives, announced the holdup.

Senido said the robbers then ran away.

Villena and his girlfriend reported the robbery to the Kamuning police station.

Saturday night, policewoman SPO4 Noli de la Cruz lost her Nokia 3210 phone while waiting for a ride near the corner of East Avenue and Elliptical Road.

Many commuters wait on the Elliptical Road, particularly in front of the Quezon City Hall, for rides going to Tandang Sora, Fairview, SM North Edsa, and even to Rodriguez, Rizal.



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Coming up with a hit, Hollywood-style

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE INTERNATIONAL film scene perked up recently with the news that the spectacular sequel, "The Mummy Within," made a whopping $68 million on its first weekend of release.

Great! But how have other new releases fared during the same period? The answer could tell us a thing or two about cinematic hitmaking, Hollywood-style.

After "The Mummy Returns," **Sylvester Stallone**'s latest starrer, "Driven," made $6 million last weekend—that's $62 million less for the same period. "Driven" has grossed only $21 million after two weeks of release, an indication that it won't earn enough in the long run ($100 million) to end up as a certified hit.

"Bridget Jones' Diary" has done better overall ($44 million) after four weeks of release, but made only $5.7 last weekend, again indicating that it may not become a smash.

"Spy Kids" is another story entirely. After six weeks, it's made $98 million. It earned only $3.8 million last weekend, but its eventual hit status is assured due to its strong showing in previous weeks.

"Along Came A Spider" has made $60 million after five weeks—not bad, but the action-thriller has only a slim chance of ending up as one of the film year's big hits.

Ditto for "Blow," which at $44 million after five weeks of release is languishing in the box-office derby, despite some encouraging reviews.

Perusing the list of other current films and what they're making at the tills, it becomes clear that "The Mummy Within's" $68-million gross on its first weekend is a rare achievement, right up there with the great cinematic success stories of all time, like "Star Wars: Episode 1—The Enemy Within" with its $64-million opening-weekend take and "The Lost World: Jurassic Park" ($72 million).

Less exceptional movies can also make the $100 million that indicates a hit film in Hollywood but not if they earn only $5 million or less per week.

To get a chance at hitting $100 million, a film needs to gross some $10 million a week. Of course, producers will point out that, aside from US grosses, movies these days also make a lot from the overseas market—around 50 percent of their US take.

So, even if a film makes less than $100 million in the States, it could still end up as a certified hit after its international sales have been factored in.

Final note: **Ang Lee**'s "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" made only $584,000 last weekend, but it's already grossed $124 million after 22 weeks of release.

This makes it the most successful foreign film to play in the States, ever, eclipsing the record set by **Roberto Benigni**'s "Life Is Beautiful."

For a foreign film to become a hit even by Hollywood standards, it needs to be picked up for distribution by an American outfit "Crouching Tiger . . ." had Sony Pictures Classics pushing it bigtime, thus its exceptional showing at the tills.

It also needs wide mainstream release, not just on the arthouse circuit. Ang Lee's film was shown on over 1,000 screens, which enabled it to generate not just major viewership but also sizable world-of-mouth publicity.

This in turn added to the positive reviews that the film had been getting, and pushed it above Hollywood's minimum standard for hits, despite the fact that it was a Chinese production.

Other foreign productions would do well to line up their own support system, to also end up in the winners' circle.

Of course, many foreign movie producers would be happy to end up with just a fraction of what "Crouching Tiger . . ." has earned, but there's nothing to stop more ambitious film people from aiming for the moon.

After all, Ang Lee and company have shown that, if you "fly" high enough on wings of martial-arts bravura, even the moon can be yours for the asking.

Newest heartthrob finds unlikely partner

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

IT'S NOT one of those mushy romantic comedies that make you cringe. Neither is it a three-hankie weepie that over-uses your lachrymal glands.

"Someone Like You" is a feel-good movie which allows you to ponder on your relationships, whether past, present, even future ones. Viewers can easily relate to this movie that tackles both heartbreak and romance.

The film by **Tony Goldwyn** casts an unlikely screen pair in **Ashley Judd** and **Hugh Jackman**. **Greg Kinnear** comes in to make a love triangle, and **Ellen Barkin** further complicates the story.

The last time we saw Judd on the big screen was in "Double Jeopardy" (with **Tommy Lee Jones**), where she had to do action stunts. It grossed more than $100 million and was perhaps a tough act to follow for Judd.

The romantic-comedy genre is definitely an uncharted territory for Judd. You'd think the role would have been perfect for the likes of **Meg Ryan**, **Sandra Bullock** or **Julia Roberts**. But after Julia reportedly dropped the script of "Someone Like You" in favor of "Erin Brokovich," the role went to Judd.

We also couldn't imagine the 6-foot-2 hunk Jackman as a romantic and sexy lead after we saw him as the sci-fi comic-book character Wolverine in the thriller "X-Men." It was also apparent that he had to ditch his Australian accent and try to speak like a real New Yorker for his role in "Someone Like You."

But Judd and Jackman make an interesting screen tandem in "Someone Like You," which is based on the novel "Animal Husbandry" by **Laura Zigman**.

Judd is **Jane Goodale**, a talent coordinator for a New York TV talk show hosted by Barkin. Jane wears her heart on her sleeve, so when she meets the show's new executive producer **Ray Brown** (Kinnear), who starts to woo her, she readily falls for him.

But as soon as Jane gets heartbroken, Ray ditches her after promising her the moon and the stars. It is in trying to mend her heartbreak and in demystifying the romance that turned sour that Jane finds inspiration in the most unexpected place.

Jane has been dumped one time too many, and the latest blow leaves her crying buckets. She turns to writing and uses a pseudonym to write a sex column in a men's magazine edited by her friend (**Marisa Tomei**). The column instantly creates a stir and in no time makes Jane realize one important thing.

Eddie (Jackman), a bed-hopping playboy, inevitably comes to Jane's rescue even without any plan to court her. Apart from sharing a pad in Manhattan, they soon discover that they actually have mutual feelings for each other that they have ignored all this time.

There are tender moments in "Someone Like You" like when Jane breaks down on Eddie's shoulder and he tells her, "Ray is not the only guy in this world . . ."

"Someone Like You" apparently turns its two lead stars into being certified romantic leads. So even as Hugh is now filming the sequel to "X-Men," his bare-chested scene in "Someone Like You" earned for him an army of new female fans.

He is perhaps the latest Hollywood heartthrob after **Heath Ledger** made his mark as the courageous son of **Mel Gibson** in last year's "The Patriot."

Director Tony Goldwyn gets credit anew for "Someone Like You," his sophomore outing after "A Walk on the Moon."

At Glorietta 4, "Someone Like You" competes at the box-office with **John Travolta**'s "Lucky Numbers" and **Robert de Niro**'s "15 Minutes." But viewers apparently wanted to see a heartwarming movie every once in a while.

Ruffa's return

RUFFA Gutierrez delayed her return to Los Angeles by a week because she simply couldn't turn down the offers she got during her brief stay here.

She was supposed to leave May 5, but GMA 7 asked her to join the TV special of the Sunday noontime show, "SOP," shot in Boracay.

It was Ruffa's first time in Boracay.

"I've been to the French Riviera, St. Tropez, Marbella and Portofino, but shame on me because I haven't seen Bora-cay," Ruffa says. "When GMA asked me to stay, I had to give it second thought, but I still said yes because I was so excited to get a tan."

She also had to do a lot of guest appearances in TV shows and she went back to LA only on Saturday, May 12. From LA, she will fly to Cannes to do hosting chores like she did last year for Century Productions.

UNLIKELY pair Ashley Judd and Hugh Jackman make hearts swoon in "Someone Like You."

No to 'Pearl Harbor'

KRIS Aquino had been invited to the junket of the Hollywood movie, "Pearl Harbor," in Hawaii. But much as Kris wanted to go and interview **Ben Affleck**, the film's lead star, she had to beg off because ABS-CBN didn't allow her to leave.

Kris should have been in Hawaii today, but since it's election week, she had to be visible on her daily afternoon program, "Balitang Kris" on ABS-CBN. Besides, "Bali-tang Kris" is now in the midst of reformatting.

While the program was initially planned to do more of the news and public affairs stuff, Kris' bosses felt her show should have more show biz and entertainment features just like her now-defunct daily morning show, "Today With Kris."

So expect to see changes and even surprises on "Balitang Kris" in the coming days.

Greetings

HAPPY birthday today to GMA's big boss, **Butch Jimenez.**

REDEMPTION BOOTH

Fun and games in a cool place

"SUMMER time, and the living is easy. . ."

Whoever wrote that line obviously had not experienced the scorching heat that boils Metro Manila during the summer months. Along with the sapping summer heat comes the overwhelming desire to escape to some place cool and primed for some good old summer time fun.

Unfortunately, there aren't that many places to cool off without having to drive to the provinces. The good news is that there are still a few places in Metro Manila where you can soothe your simmering nerves. One of theme is the newly refurbished Worlds of Fun in the annex of SM City on North Edsa.

Worlds of Fun is a total family entertainment center that offers the many thrills of state-of-the-art video games, shooting games, kiddie rides, bump cars, horror train, plus the pleasure of earning points to win special prizes with its redemption machines.

With Worlds of Fun's redemption booth and amazing redemption machines, customers can collect tickets to earn points for a wide selection of prizes.

The redemption machines include a clever collection of the most fun games in town. The Full Court Fever is a mini-basketball court where players can shoot goals over moving hoops. The more goals you make, the more ticket-points you earn. There are also Bowling and Wells Ice Ball.

For kids, there's Double Chance, a machine with a small crane for picking prizes from a dome. The same principle also applies to the Chocolate Factory where kids can scoop out as much chocolate as the small crane can carry.

POWER PLANT
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Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

VALENTINE - R 18 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00	15 MINUTES - R 18 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	SOMEONE LIKE YOU - P13 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10
THE POSSESSED - P 13 11:25, 1:55, 4:25, 6:55, 9:30	EXIT WOUNDS - R18 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30	SPY KIDS - G 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00

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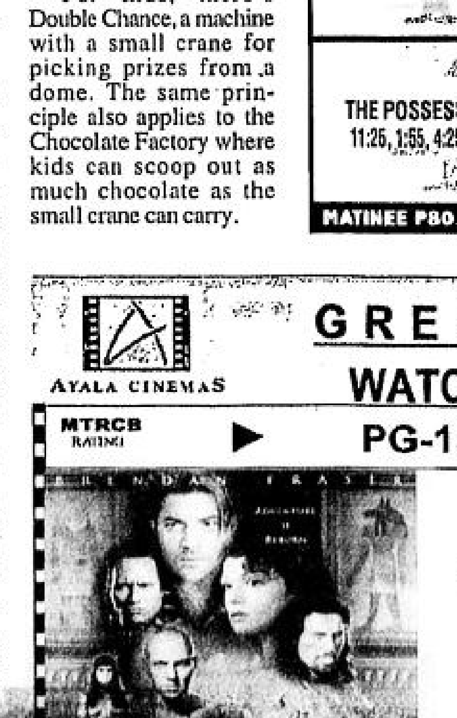

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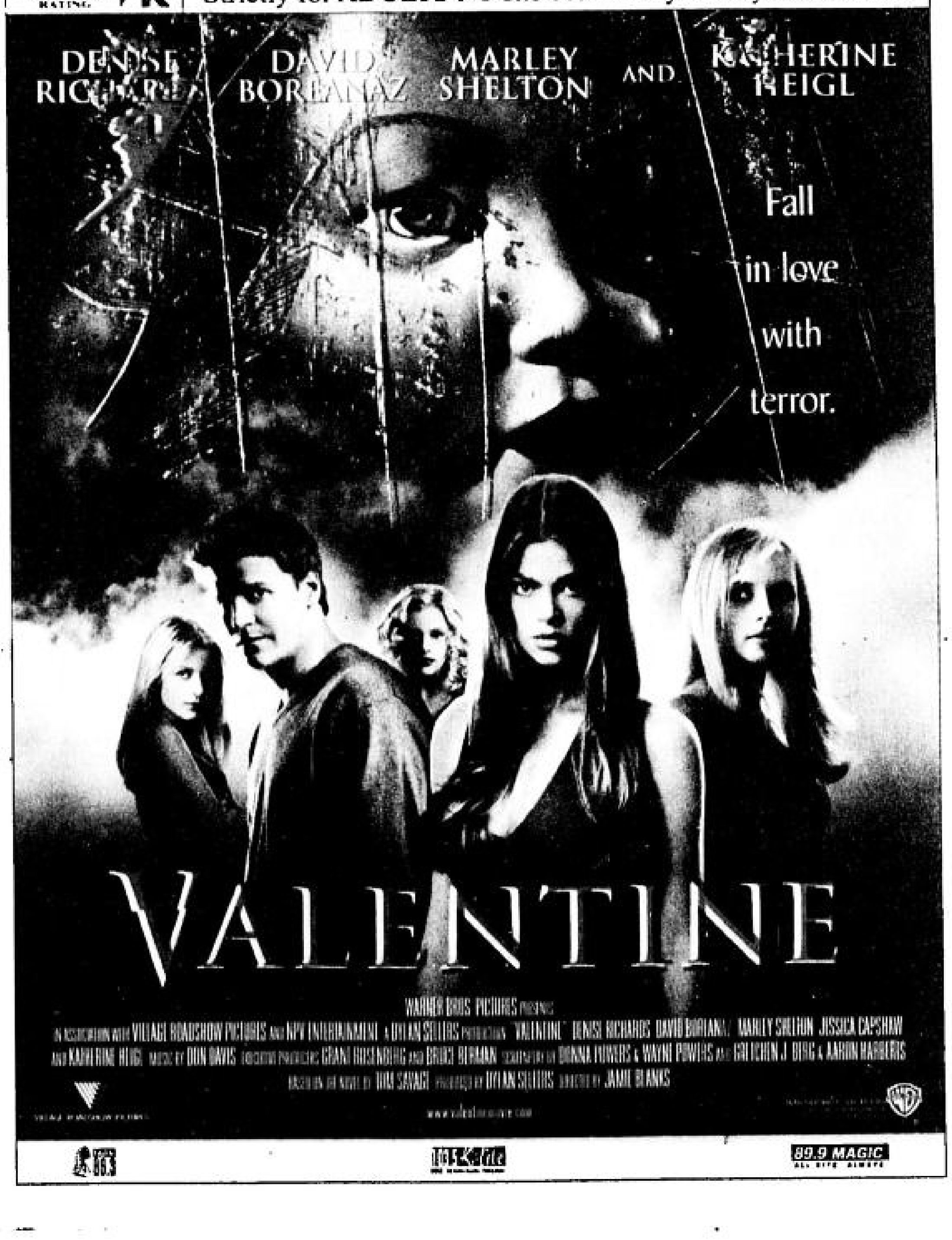

Jazz-rock band sings at Freedom Bar in QC

THE JAZZ-ROCK band Radioactive Sago Project plays at the Freedom Bar on Anonas Arcade, Anonas Road near McDonald's, Quezon City, 9:30 tonight.

The band is nominated in the best new artist category in the 2001 MTV Philippines Music Video Awards for their madball hit, "Gusto Ko ng Baboy." The same song was nominated for song of the year plum in last year's NU 107 Rock Awards.

Radioactive Sago project attracted attention for their groundbreaking fusion of diverse musical elements, ranging from bepop, swing, punk, funk and experimental music, topped off with off-beat poetry. Their compositions can be heard on their best-selling debut album.

Bands nightly at Siete Pecados

TWO hip acts perform back-to-back every night at Siete Pecados Live.

Dance to the music of Velocity and Flipside on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Check out the tunes of Hyperbeat and Common Ground on Tuesdays.

Catch Hip2Soul and Arpie and D'Multivitamins on Thursdays.

Jam with Ladi and Flipside on Fridays. Watch Arpie and D'Multivitamins and Rubberband on Saturdays.

Show starts at 8 p.m. with a minimum consumable charge of P250 from Mondays to Thursdays and P500 on Fridays and Saturdays.

For inquiries, call Westin Philippine Plaza at 551-5555, ext. 1231 or 1232.

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Featured this month are Teresa Garcia and Nadya Soriano on Mondays, Jan May Meily and Lilibeth Garcia on Tuesdays, Teresa Garcia and Leah Alano on Wednesdays, Tassia Marie and Rosemarie Villaspin on Thursdays, Tassia Marie and Pocket Central on Fridays, and Teresa Garcia and Irene Soriano on Saturdays.

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For inquiries and reservations, call 867-3333 extension 3310/20, fax 867-3888 or e-mail foodbevmnl@dusit.com.

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1	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
2	DOLBY SURROUND	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	SPY KIDS
4	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	VALENTINE
6	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
7	DOLBY SURROUND	POSSESSED
8	DOLBY SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU

SM CENTERPOINT 7140522 / 7161416

1	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
2	DOLBY SURROUND	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
3	DTS	VALENTINE
4	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	SPY KIDS
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
7	DOLBY SURROUND	15 MINUTES
8	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
9	DOLBY SURROUND	POSSESSED
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	DOLBY SURROUND	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
2	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
3	DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR AND SPICE
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	VALENTINE
5	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	SPY KIDS
8	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
9	DOLBY SURROUND	POSSESSED
10	DOLBY SURROUND	15 MINUTES
11	DOLBY SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
12	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	15 MINUTES
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	VALENTINE
3	DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR AND SPICE
4	DOLBY SURROUND	SPY KIDS
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	SPY KIDS
7	DOLBY SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
8	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
9	DOLBY SURROUND	POSSESSED
10	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
11	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
12	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR [illegible]

1	ULTRA SURROUND	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SPY KIDS
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	POSSESSED

SM MEGAMALL 6337001 / 6339401

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	DTS	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	POSSESSED
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	15 MINUTES
9	DOLBY SURROUND	VALENTINE
10	DOLBY SURROUND	SPY KIDS
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9296452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
2	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SPY KIDS
4	DOLBY SURROUND	POSSESSED
5	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
7	DTS	VALENTINE
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	SPY KIDS
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
10	DOLBY SURROUND	15 MINUTES
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	LUCKY NUMBERS
12	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888 • 8066782

1	ULTRA SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	SPY KIDS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
5	ULTRA SURROUND	15 MINUTES
6	ULTRA SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
7	ULTRA SURROUND	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	VALENTINE
9	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10	ULTRA SURROUND	15 MINUTES

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	15 MINUTES
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	POSSESSED
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN

SM CEBU 2313878

1	DOLBY SURROUND	SPY KIDS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	THE CROW
3	ULTRA SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
4	ULTRA SURROUND	EXTREME WARRIORS
5	ULTRA SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
6	ULTRA SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
7	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

SM ILOILO 3206422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	SPY KIDS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
4	ULTRA SURROUND	THE CROW
5	ULTRA SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
6	ULTRA SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	HALIK NG SERENA

SM PAMPANGA 7128016

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	15 MINUTES
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	SAY IT ISN'T SO
3	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MINSAN MAY ISANG PUSO
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

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1 SPY KIDS
2 VALENTINE
3 THE POSSESSED
4 15 MINUTES

[illegible]

1 SOMEONE LIKE YOU — in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2 15 MINUTES — in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 VALENTINE THX — in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 THE CRIMSON RIVERS (Phil. Premiere) — in DTS DIGITAL SOUND — Art Film
5 LUCKY NUMBERS — in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6 SPY KIDS — in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7 EXIT WOUNDS — in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

[illegible]

1 VALENTINE — in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2 SPY KIDS — in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3 SOMEONE LIKE YOU — in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4 Onstage

[illegible]

1 SPY KIDS THX — in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2 SOMEONE LIKE YOU — in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 VALENTINE — in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 THE POSSESSED — in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 15 MINUTES — in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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3 (DTS) EXIT WOUNDS
4 GOLD (DTS) SOMEONE LIKE YOU
5 GOLD (DOLBY) THE POSSESSED
6 GOLD (SDDS) DOUBLE TAKE
7 GOLD (DOLBY) VALENTINE
8 (PWG) BALIKTARAN
9 (PWG) NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10 (PWG) 15 MINUTES

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1
2 SAVE THE LAST DANCE
3 (DTS) THE MEXICAN
4
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315
1 (DOLBY)
2 (DTS) KUNG LILIGAYA KA
3

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603
1 BALIKTARAN
2 KUNG LILIGAYA KA
3 ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986
1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 BALIKTARAN
3 ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) VALENTINE
5 POSSESSED

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001
1 BALIKTARAN
2 DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
3 ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
4 NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5 VALENTINE
6 SPY KIDS
7 POSSESSED
8 RESERVE

LOUIE'S CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010 / 892.3349
1

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 SWEET NOVEMBER
2 NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515
1 ART OF WAR
2 GET CARTER
3 RESERVE

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864
1
A

Sunshine
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1
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2 LUCKY NUMBERS
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ODEON	VALENTINE
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ACT-4	CLOSED
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REMAR	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
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Hear the Difference, Feel the Excitement

‘MY LIFE IN PINK’ ON DVD

Accepting what is different

REVIEW

BY MARIO CORNEJO

THE DVD revolution has showered us with blessings. Amazing sound and picture quality, a plethora of special features, and freedom from the VHS player, that infernal device no one can program that somehow always chooses to devour rented porn tapes.

But the best thing about DVDs is that they allow you to discover films that will never make it to your friendly neighborhood movie-house—the non-Hollywood gems that win critical acclaim but fail to attain the holy grail that is Miramax distribution.

One such film is "Ma Vie en Rose" (My Life in Pink).

This work by Belgian first-time director Alain Berliner focuses on the boy Ludovic, who by the age of seven is completely convinced that he is truly a girl. His earnestness wreaks havoc on the values of his family, school, and entire community.

But that nutshell summary is a grave injustice to the richly textured world presented in "My Life in Pink." The film treats the viewer to Ludovic's opulent fantasy life, ruled by a popular children's show character named Pam and her boyfriend Ben. (Their uncanny resemblance to Barbie and Ken is probably just a totally amazing coincidence. Not a clever way to avoid copyright infringements at all). The stylized and hilarious sequences set in the world of Pam vividly illustrate the role a child's fantasy life plays in his perception of reality.

In one extremely funny scene, we are treated to Ludo's version of his origin, where God was a little careless while delivering X and Y chromosomes, not succeeding in getting them down the proper chimney on the day Ludovic was born.

Love and misunderstanding

The director and the cast both deftly handle Ludo's relationship with his family, achieving a precarious balance between love and misunderstanding. But this balance shifts constantly as the boy's parents change over the course of the film, transformed by the pressures of the small community where they live. As we see throughout the film, this is a town where conformity is celebrated.

Perhaps the relationship on which the film hinges is that between Ludovic and his mother, portrayed in a sparkling performance by Michele Laroque. She is at first one of the few characters sympathetic to her son, but it turns out that her sympathy is hardly unconditional, and her journey toward true acceptance of Ludovic is subtly and painfully portrayed.

"My Life in Pink" is full of great performances. The gruff father Pierre, played by Jean Philippe Ecoffey, might well have been the same gruff father in Stephen Daldry's "Billy Elliot." They even look alike.

Ludovic's best friend Jerome (Julien Riviere) manages to convey an adolescent's awkwardness and a child's acceptance at the same time.

Show-stopping performance

But the real showstopper is George du Fresne, who would have played the title role had the producers chosen to name the film after his character, Ludovic.

Well, I thought it was funny.

While some may view Ludovic as having a sexual identity crisis, it becomes abundantly clear that it is everyone else who is "confused." His absolute certainty about his having meant to be a girl is unwavering, and upon this rock has director Alain Berliner built this movie.

Du Fresne's performance has a purity and maturity that only a handful of child actors can convey. His search for proof of his conviction never comes across as self-doubt, but rather as a means to explain to his family the truth of his nature as a "girlboy."

While the movie may seem like an argument for the genetic nature of homosexuality, it is much more than that. It is about being different, and the acceptance of what is different in ourselves and in others.

At times the film resorts to clichés, and the director has a tendency to use shortcuts to establish many of the characters. But the originality of the material and the subtle handling of the key characters more than make up for these.

So-so special feature

Overall this film is more charming than a barrelful of kittens. That's why it is sad that while "My Life in Pink" succeeds so well on film, it is just so-so on DVD.

Aside from the standard chapter stops and subtitles, the DVD lists only one special feature, which is "Production Notes." But I couldn't find that one measly special feature. Perhaps there's a secret handshake before they let you see it.

When a DVD claims to have a special feature, I'd like to be able to find it on the menu.

Furthermore, the film is in French with no dubbed versions, which can be alienating. I like watching movies in their original language, even though my French is limited to a handful of useless phrases. (*Je crois que tu es en complicite avec le boucher*—I believe you are in league with the butcher). While there is a selection of subtitle languages available (one of them, fortunately, is English), some people just prefer the convenience of not having to read while watching. Add to that the fact that you are discriminating against the illiterate and the blind.

Just kidding.

This DVD is like a diamond ring wrapped in an old newspaper. The contents are sparkling while the package is merely functional.

Pinikpikan launches CD through music-dance performance

RECORDS

PINIKPIKAN launches its latest album on CD, "Obra Encantada," on May 21, 8 p.m., at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, 4/F RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenues, Makati.

A music and dance performance precedes the launch, with French Ambassador Gilles Chouraqui as guest of honor.

Last year, Pinikpikan's "Atas" CD received five awards, including album of the year, from the Katha organization of Filipino composers.

In contrast to the powerful rawness of "Atas," the follow-up CD has more depth in musicality, while retaining diversity in a wider context, and relating to Filipino heritage, Asian influences and the world music concept in general.

The unique percussion band Pinikpikan had its origins in freeform jamming sessions in Baguio City's Café By the Ruins, followed by similarly spirited engagement of indigenous music in Puerto Galera, Pasay and Malate.

Its membership has evolved through the years, so that a slogan that usually introduces the often amorphous band says: "The members have never been the same, yet the members always are . . ."

Celebrated singer Grace Nono has written of the group: "Pinikpikan has a decade or so of history, led by a patrileneal succession of charismatic personalities starting with the late Pepito Bosch and Roberto Villanueva, then Bencab, Boy Yuchengco, Diokno Pasilan, and Billy Bonnevie.

"Now, its sound is being directed by rook guitar veteran Sammy Asuncion, featuring the powerful presence of chantress Carol Bello. With membership streamlined, Pinikpikan has crossed the boundaries of space from mountains, beaches and artists' enclaves to concert halls and MTV, still banging on rocks, summoning the muses."

"Obra Encantada" features 12 cuts done in several dialects—Tagalog, Cebuano, Ilonggo, Kinaray-a, Tingguian/Itneg and Chabakano.

Apart from Asuncion and Bello, the players include Butch Aldana on devil's water chimes/bells/percussion, Gerry Baguio on bass, djembe/tungatong, Billy Bonnevie on kubing/percussion, Dante Bosch on main djembe, Budeths Casinto on djembe/dumbek/derbouka/back-up vocals, Jose Dufourt on surdu, composer Boy Garrovillo on faglong/tungatong/dejeme/back-up vocals, and Tito Martinez on bongos/kubing.

Lending support are guest musicians Bob Aves on octavina, Louie Talan on bass guitar, Mark Escueta and Mar Dizon on drums, Niño Hernandez on flute and Jean Paul Zialcita on shaker/cowbells/woodblock.

Engineered by Bob Aves at Soundquest Recording Studio, "Obra Encantada" is produced by Aves and Asuncion and released by Tao Music. The CD will be available at Tower Records, and distributed nationwide by Ivory Records.

JEREMIAH. Records a revival of the Lucio San Pedro classic, "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan."

"BOND GIRLS:" The female string quartet makes their presence felt via their debut album.

Love songs from Natalie Cole

FROM the time she soared to superstar status via her first hit "Inseparable," Natalie Cole has reaped award after award, spawning Top 10 hits that further speeded up her meteoric rise to fame. But it was her multi-platinum, multi-Grammy winning "Unforgettable, With Love" album that sold an amazing 11 million copies which was the testament to Natalie's brilliant talent.

The album is a tribute to her father, the late great Nat King Cole, as it contained their virtual duet, her father's classic hit, "Unforgettable." The same album garnered seven Grammy Awards, making it one of the most honored albums of all time.

Now, after a 25-year sojourn with fame and glory, Natalie brings us once again the magic that has catapulted her to the top. The compilation contains 19 unforgettable hits, including "Miss You Like Crazy," "I Live For Your Love" and the classic duets with her father, "Unforgettable" and "When I Fall In Love."

"Natalie Cole Love Songs" is released by Warner Music Philippines.

Porkchops in VCD

RENATO "Porky" Gomez and Romeo "Choppy" Vargas, collectively known as the Porkchop Duo, has been giving laughter to fans here and abroad for the past 20 years. These stand-up comedians are widely known for their hilarious antics and their inimitable singing style which have been witnessed by audiences in the Untied States, Australia, Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

The Porckchop Duo enters a new phase in their career as Star Records releases the group's first VCD which captures the duo's finest and wackiest live performances ever.

Fans can now enjoy the comic tandem which dishes out jokes drawn from actual life situations, humorous anecdotes spiced up with sentimental favorites and nostalgic hits from such genres as ballads, rock and roll and their trademark adaptations of pop songs which they translate into novelty pieces.

Movie theme

JEREMIAH, one of the country best all-male pop vocal group, comes up with another monster hit with their remake of "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan." This feat duplicates the overwhelming response of the public to their previous hits such as "Nanghihinayang," "Bakit Ka Iiyak" and their revival of "Oh Babe," popularized by the group Singsing in the '70s.

"Sa Ugoy ng Duyan," composed by National Artist for Music Lucio San Pedro, is a beautiful, haunting ballad in the classic Filipino tradition that pays tribute to motherhood. The song was re-arranged to suit Jeremiah's pop, soul and R&B style.

Incidentally, "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan" is the theme of a major Viva Films release, "Abakada . . . Ina," starring Lorna Tolentino, Albert Martinez, Matet de Leon and Nida Blanca.

Composed of members Olan Crizaldo, Froi Calixto, Symon Soler and Piwee Polintan, Jeremiah headlines the movie's official soundtrack. Joining the group on the "Abakada . . . Ina" soundtrack album are Lani Misalucha ("Kasal sa Kaluluwa" and "Ina"), Marco Sison ("Hindi Kita Malilimutan"), Ashley Imler ("Mama"), Ciara Sotto ("Marami Pong Salamat, Nanay"), Donna Cruz ("Hulog ng Langit"), Janno Gibbs and daughter Alyssa ("Batang-bata Ka Pa"), Pops Fernandez ("Where is Love"), Ang Grupong Pendong ("Nanay o Nanay") and Sharon Cuneta ("Ngayon").

Released by Viva Records, the soundtrack of "Abakada . . . Ina" is now available in CDs and cassettes at all leading record bars and outlets.

All for Janet

NEARLY four weeks ago, Janet Jackson's latest single, "All for You," exploded onto the charts as the highest debuting non-commercially available single in the land. It set a new recording industry mark by receiving airplay from every radio and records reporting radio station in the US.

The song is the first release from Janet's new album of the same title and marks Janet's 10th trip to the Billboards' Hot Charts.

"All for You" is a pop-funk fusion co-written and co-produced by Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis, Janet's longtime songwriting and studio collaborators. It is the latest landmark in an eclectic, audacious career that has touched audiences in pop, rock, R&B and hip-hop without ever compromising.

"All for You" is Jackson's first studio recording in three years and contains 14 full-length songs as well as six musical interludes.

Selections include "Come On Get Up," "Son of A Gun," a duet with Carly Simon and "Someone To Call My Lover."

Among the sultry ballads are "When We Oooh," "Would You Mind" and "Feels So Right."

Also included is the No. 1 single, "Doesn't Really Matter," from the blockbuster film "Nutty Professor 2."

The likes of rap duo Outkast, basketball superstar Shaquille O'Neal, actor Jamie Foxx, Stevie Wonder, Destiny's Child, Macy Gray, metal band Buckcherry, Aaliyah, Pink, Usher, Mya, Tyrese, Method Man, Redman, Taye Diggs, David Alan Grier, Busta Rhymes, Christina Aguillera, Britney Spears, N'Sync and the Jackson brothers all took part in this groundbreaking episode.

Janet Jackson's "All for You" is now available on CDs and cassettes under OctoArts-EMI Music.

The name is Bond

AN ANGLO-Australian female string quartet called Bond is set to invade the Philippine music scene this month. The group makes its strong presence felt via their debut album, "Born" on MCA Universal.

Bond is composed of Haylie Ecker (violin), Eos Chater (violin), Gay-Yee Westerhoff (cello) and Tania Davis (viola).

Because of their mix of classical melodies and bare midriffs, Bond has been hailed as the "Spice Girls of Classical Music." Their original music and arrangements are spiked with tinges of everything from trance and house music to salsa and traditional East-European folk songs. The result is a dramatic, compelling and original sound.

Bond is now capturing global attention with their single, "Victory," climbing steadily to the top of the music charts in many countries.

Bikini Beach Buddies launched at Padi's

SAN Miguel Beer's Bikini Beach Buddies II took off with a bursting crowd at Padi's Mindave on May 5, hosted by owner Wilson Lee Flores.

If you failed to catch a glimpse of the curvaceous female bets and handsome, muscular hunks, catch them next at Caramba at The Fort, where the fashion collection of L'Atelier and Frederick Alba will be featured.

San Miguel Beer, the major title sponsor, hosted the main pageant activities with Thunderbird-Univet at Puerto Galera's famous white beach, in conjunction with San Miguel Beer's "summer means beer" campaign on May 25 and 26.

Starlite Ferry's fast, comfortable and convenient Roro-Vessels will transfer candidates from Batangas Port to Puerto Galera for the big event.

Final proclamation and continuing pageant activities will be held on May 27 at the Purple Ostrich Bar, Island Cove Resort and Leisure Park in Kawit, Cavite.

WG&A Philippine ferries all the winners to top Philippine destinations such as Coron in Northern Palawan, and Dumaguit Port in Boracay.

The SMB Mr. and Ms Bikini Beach Buddies winners will each receive a total package consisting of P50,000 in a combination of prizes consisting of a cash prize, trip to Hong Kong or Bangkok, roundtrip to any point of the Philippines courtesy of WG&A Super Ferry Philippines, and gift products and certificates from sponsors.

Runners-up will also receive domestic round-trip tickets from of WG&A Super Ferry Philippines, plus gift prizes from the sponsors.

FEMALE bets pose onstage during the elimination round of the contest.

Boracay Body Search 2001 winners

MEDIA Alliances Inc. staged the finals night of the Boracay Body Search 2001 on April 28 at the Pearl of the Pacific Resort in Boracay Island.

Twenty of the best physique in the country vied for the title and six candidates emerged as winners.

Mr. and Ms Boracay Body Search 2001 are Edward Bantegui and Arlene Son. First runners up are Ronald Villar and Mary Grace Lacson. Second runners up are Gerald Navarro and Paula Tesoro.

Over-all direction for the final's night was Mark Reyes (DGPI). Stage direction and choreography were by Calvin Neria and Duds Santiago. Hosts were Marc Nelson, Allan Gnat and Jackie Castillejo.

The Boracay Body Search 2011 will be aired on TV next month.

WINNERS in the Boracay Body Search 2001: (from left) Paula Tesoro and Gerald Navarro (second runners up), Arlene Son and Edward Bantegui (title holders) and Mary Grace Lacson and Ronald Villar (first runners up).

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Bobby may not be big but he's busy

BY REMY M. UMEREZ

WHAT HAS become of Bobby Andrews' career after the breakup of his loveteam with Angelu de Leon?

We asked Bobby during a lull in the filming of "Kagat ng Dilim" which Erik Matti is directing for Viva Television.

"I am now playing various roles, which I don't think would be possible if I were still teamed up with Angelu," said Bobby, who was clad in a doctor's uniform for the new movie. "Being tied up to a screen partner limits an actor's productivity. When the partnership ended, I simply told myself one has to move on. Today, I feel like I'm starting all over again."

When he was in his teens, Bobby was a familiar sight on TV as he appeared regularly on "Thank God It's Sabado."

This will be the first time he is appearing on a show dealing with evil spirits.

He considers working with Matti, of "Warat" fame, an enriching experience.

"Erik is a cool director," he says. "I still have to hear him shout or curse on the set. He is forever smiling. He likes to have fun with everyone even if the story we are taping is about creatures of the dark.

"I like his approach to storytelling. He concentrates more on the visuals."

Now on its second season, "Kagat ng Dilim" resumes airing new episodes every Saturday, from 9 to 10 p.m. on IBC 13. The first episode titled "Lulid" airs June 2 and Bobby, who joins Raymond Bagatsing and Eula Valdez on the show, is just too happy to be the season opener.

In "Lulid," Bobby plays the doctor friend of Raymond's character who is stricken by a horrible skin disease. When medicines fail to cure Raymond, a faith healer is summoned but his efforts are also in vain. A third force is at work on Raymond and Bobby tries to unveil the mystery with the help of an old gardener.

The lanky actor and father of two darling daughters has not been completely idle despite the slump in the movie industry. He was recently seen in "Abakada Ina" as the unfavored son of Nida Blanca and brother of Albert Martinez. It was more of a cameo, a role so short you would have forgotten his character by the latter half of the movie.

So why did he accept the part in the first place?

"I can never say no to Boss Vic," he said. "True, the role was small but it had substance. I viewed it as preparatory to more juicy roles in the future. The point is, I trust Viva."

Bobby has already completed two film assignments scheduled for showing in the second quarter of 2001 or at the start of the school year. These are "Karugtong ng Buhay," a romantic comedy starring Regine Velasquez and Aga Muhlach, and "Buhay Kamao" with Robin Padilla and Rica Peralejo.

In both movies, Bobby plays the best friend of Regine and Robin. It is not a "demotion" for Bobby, who has after all played lead parts opposite Angelu.

"I am a practical person," he said. "When I entered the movies, I never entertained illusions of becoming a big, big star. I would be content seeing myself on the screen, acting. It was a dream I nursed since I was small and when Viva gave me the opportunity, I couldn't ask for more. In fact, I feel blessed because there are many actors without jobs nowadays and I am here with my hands full."

Being practical also means being willing to portray any role, whether good or evil.

"I have no qualms about playing a mean guy on screen," Bobby said. "I raped Rosanna Roces in 'Katawan' and I also went bold. At this point, I welcome offbeat roles anytime if it would mean growing up as an actor."

Acting is both therapy and a means of livelihood for Bobby, who doesn't see himself engaging in another kind of job. Friends have been encouraging him to join them in a business venture, like opening a restaurant which seems to be the vogue nowadays among showbiz people. But Bobby feels he doesn't have the knack for it.

As a family man, he says that for as long as he gets regular movie assignments, his income as an actor is good enough to raise a family.

"Just don't splurge and always save for the rainy day," he said.

Career-wise, his ultimate goal is to make a mark as an actor through realistic and convincing performances.

ALONE BUT NOT LONELY. Bobby Andrews calls himself a practical man.

Kuh sings Streisand

RELISH all-time Streisand favorites as Kuh Ledesma sings "The Way We Were," "Some Good Things Never Last," "People" and "You Don't Bring Me Flowers" in a dinner show, "Kuh Sings Streisand," May 26 at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel.

Dinner is at 7 p.m. and show starts 9 p.m.

Kuh's special friends in the business add glitter to the main event. Regine Velasquez duets with Kuh on "Evergreen."

Chad Borja, meanwhile, carries out "Till I Met You."

Kuh will be backed up by an eight-piece string orchestra and a session band.

Tickets priced at P2,000, P1,500 and P750 are available at Manila Hotel, Republic of Malate, SM Ticketnet, Quality Optics (586 Quintin Paredes St. corner Ongpin St., Manila) and La Compagnie de Petits in Shangri-La Mall and Rockwell.

The concert is a benefit project for Asilo de San Vicente de Paul.

LEDESMA

COFFEE SHOP TOUR

Barbie's Cradle do the rounds of Seattle's Best outlets for their coffee bar tour, "Java Jivin' with Barbie's Cradle." The event is mounted by Seattle's Best with RX 93.1 and Warner Music Philippines. The group will be at Seattle's Best SM Manila on May 18 and Seattle's Best Greenbelt on May 26. All shows start 9 p.m. Fans of Barbie's Cradle can now avail of the group's new, specially repackaged edition of "Music from the Buffet Table" album featuring free VCDs of the band's previous hit, "The Dance," and their latest "Money for Food," which is now enjoying favorable airplay in FM radio stations.

ENTERTAINMENT AT SUBURBIA

Spindrift takes centerstage with their pop and dance repertoire on Friday nights at Suburbia in Malate. The group holds a back-to-back performance with Freeverse, who sings R&B tunes. Manila's premier band Side A takes the weekday slot on Mondays and Wednesdays (back-to-back with Escape). Tuesdays feature Pido with Take One, while Judith Banal with SOB performs on Thursdays. For inquiries, call 450-1685 or 86.

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Convenience Stores & Mini-Marts: Petron Treats, Shell Select, Caltex Starmart, Total La Boutique, 7-11, iMart, Binggo!, Easy Mart, New Ever Foodmart, Mightee Mart, South Market Place, Casimiro Comm'l Compact Express, Diamante Grocery, Emilene's, In & Out, Robin Mart, Speed Mart and Yes Mart

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2001

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

ENGINE OIL
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for
Honda Engines
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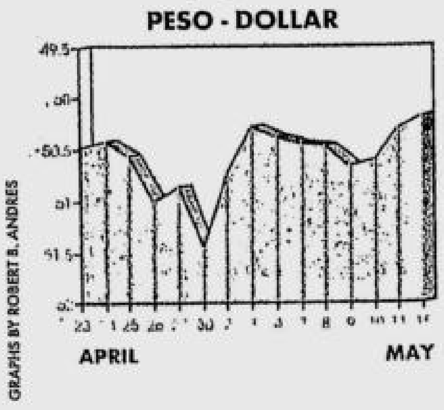
INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

P50.18 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
May 15, 2001

Y123.26 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 123.26 as of 5 p.m., May 15, 2001

GOLD:$267.50/268
per ounce Hong Kong,
May 15, 2001

T-bill yields drop

TREASURY bill yields yesterday declined by as much as 5.89 basis points, pushing down the government's benchmark borrowing rate back to single-digit level, as the market anticipated a half-a-percentage point cut in US interest rates today.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas earlier said it would match a US Fed rate cut during the week.

A relatively peaceful elections, said Deputy National Treasurer Eduardo Mendiola, boosted market confidence of the market and encouraged bidders to submit reasonable bids on government's borrowing papers yesterday.

The 91-day treasury bill rate, the government's benchmark borrowing rate, slid by 5.89 basis points to 9.513 percent while the rate cuts for longer maturity papers were more modest at 4.09 basis points to 10.915 percent for the six-month instruments and 3.75 points to 11.35 percent for the one-year treasury papers.

US monetary authorities are expected to bring down interest rates by another half-a-percentage point in a meeting today (Manila time).

Treasury bill rates track the movement of the central bank's overnight rates while banks follow the 91-day benchmark in pricing their loans.

The government borrows P4 billion from the private sector weekly through the treasury bill auctions.

Mendiola believes that the market, smarting from last week's total rejection by the Bureau of Treasury, has ample liquidity to bid reasonably for the government's debt papers.

The government, said National Treasurer Sergio Edeza earlier, could sustain three straight weeks of rejection after it had received from its coffers last week more than P15 billion from the issuance of small-denominated treasury bonds.

Polls fail to lift stocks

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

LOCAL stocks fell sharply yesterday as investors turned wary after early poll results showed that the Macapagal administration might be facing a hostile, opposition-dominated legislature.

The main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index lost 26.85 points or 1.81 percent, to close at 1,457.97 with a value turnover of P497 million, following a rally Friday that saw the index rising by 2.8 percent.

The peso overcame early weakness and rebounded to close at 50.18 to the dollar, the highest in three weeks.

Analysts who predicted that stocks and the peso would rise following the elections, which officials hailed as relatively peaceful and orderly, were surprised at the market's lackluster performance.

Brokers said trading was light. The sentiment, they said, reflected the possibility that President Macapagal-Arroyo, known as friendly to big business, might have to work with an opposition-dominated Congress to get her economic reform agenda off the ground. Also, the issue of the Macapagal administration's legitimacy might linger, they said.

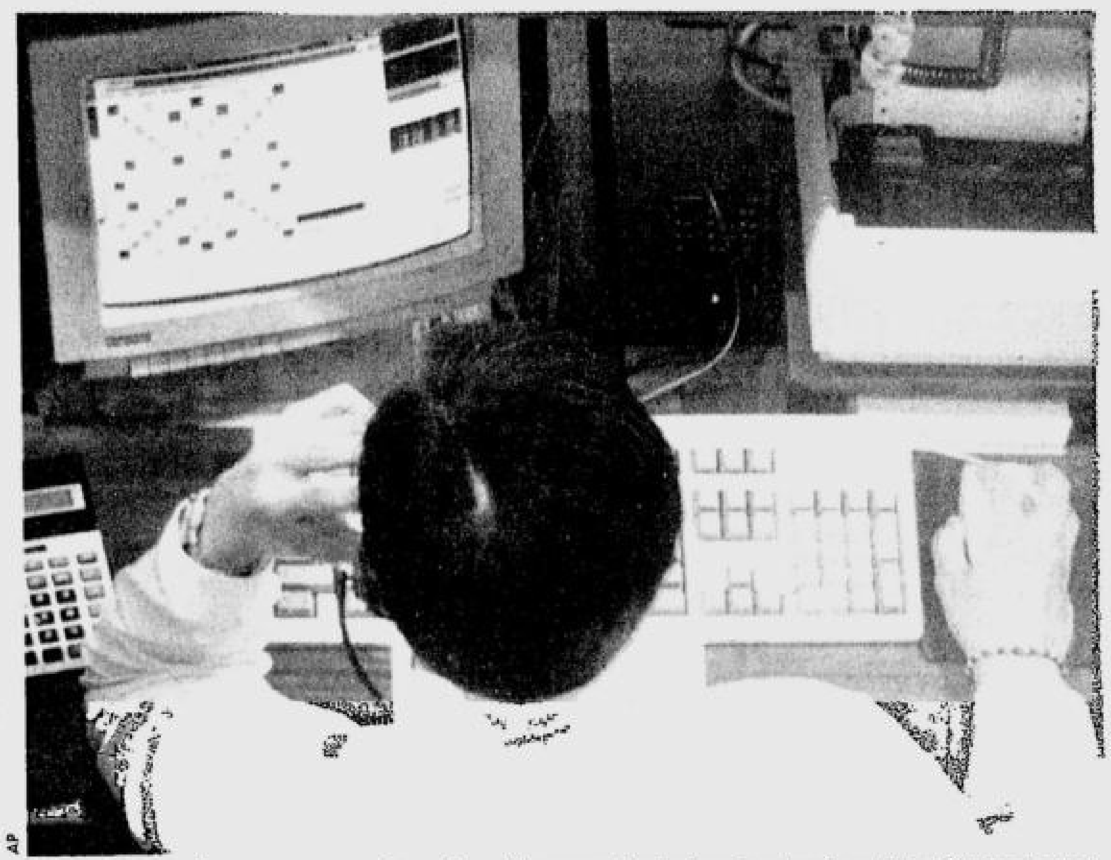
Ms Macapagal needs Congress' help in getting a number of her administration's key programs approved and implemented. The stalled power sector reform bill, according to economists, is the President's immediate challenge.

Five years in the making, the power bill seeks to sell off the generating assets of National Power Corp. to the private sector to give the government a breather from costly subsidies.

Unofficial tallies and exit polls showed that a number of senatorial candidates allied with ousted President Estrada might make it to the "Magic 13."

Wellex Global Equities head of research James Lago said the market lost half of the gains posted in strong rally Friday due to the stronger-than-expected showing of opposition candidates in Monday's elections.

Vickers Ballas Securities (Philippines) assistant director for sales Enrique Sta. Ana said speculative traders who boosted the market last Friday went into profit-taking yesterday. He said that although Monday's elections were relatively peaceful, investors balked at the early polling trends that showed a strong electoral support to the opposition candidates.



AP

A TRADER works on a crossword puzzle on his computer during slow trading at the PSE yesterday.

"A lot of investors are still not convinced about market prospects . . they are looking for a majority control (by the government of the Senate) but it does not look like it will materialize (based on early unofficial voting figures)," UCPB Trust fund manager Vanessa Lim said.

Out of the 13 Senate seats being contested, the government needs to win nine to give it a clear majority in the Senate, the most powerful body after the presidency.

However, early unofficial results showed seven pro-administration Senate candidates out in front but with only a small portion of the total vote counted. The vote counting process, which is conducted manually, could take up to two weeks.

ATR Kim Eng Securities research head Luz Lorenzo, for his part, complained of the conflicting unofficial poll counts which, he said, had triggered uncertainties in the market.

Regina Capital Development Corp. vice president for research Allan Araullo said the market was likely to move back into a consolidation phase over the next few days as players look for a clearer picture on the election outcome. If the pro-administration Senate ticket can win by a minimum margin of eight to five, then it may spur some buying activities, he said. *With reports from Reuters, AFP*

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ICTSI reports P16.7-M loss

PORT operator International Container Terminal Services Inc. reported yesterday a P16.7-million first-quarter loss.

In a statement, ICTSI said the negative figure was a result of foreign exchange losses and accretion of put premium on the company's $130 million in convertible bonds.

ICTSI said the continued growth overall in volume, revenue and operating income from terminals in the Philippines, Argentina, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Tanzania cushioned the effects of the peso's depreciation.

Group-wide, volume grew 9 percent to 621,566 tons in the first quarter of the year from last year's 566,255 tons.

The growth in revenue boosted ICTSI's consolidated gross revenue, which grew 46 percent to P2.6 billion.

Despite the growth in revenue and volume, however, foreign exchange losses continued to dampen the company's performance.

Amortization of foreign exchange losses more than quadrupled to P235 million from P42 million while the accretion of the put premium rose 12 percent to P109 million from P97 million. *Elena R. Torrijos*

SPI puts up new unit

SPI Technologies Inc. has established a new subsidiary to handle a multibillion-peso data conversion project it recently bagged from Elsevier Science, the world's largest medical publisher.

SPI has incorporated Content Sciences Inc., a new unit registered with the Philippine Export Processing Zone Authority which will hire over 1,500 in additional manpower for the Elsevier project over the next three to four years.

SPI investor relations office Eleanor Salumbre said the company earmarked over P150 million for Content Sciences for this year alone.

SPI has started putting up the new facility, which will be located in Camelray II in Calamba, Laguna. Production will start in August 2001.

"This endeavor is basically an expansion of the content conversion services business unit of the company. Its activity is focused on the project with Elsevier Science," Salumbre said.

"A project of this magnitude will constantly boost even further the significant growth that SPI is currently experiencing," SPI president and chief executive Ernest Cu said. *Doris C. Dumlao*

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Tuesday, May 15, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	78	80	78	79.5	2,824,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	45	45	44	44	190,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	209	209	209	209	54,790
Philippine National Bank	49.5	49.5	49.5	49.5	4,000
Security Bank Corp.	19.75	19.75	19.75	19.75	12,100
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	11,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	250	250	250	250	430
Manulife Financial Corp.	1275	1275	1255	1275	2,140
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1030	1035	1030	1035	660
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	40	40	40	40	6,800
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.44	0.44	460,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	700	700	690	690	2,010
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	710	715	710	715	68,230
Ivantage Corp.	1	1	1	1	15,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.047	0.047	0.045	0.046	109,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	43.5	43.5	42.5	43	33,200
Manila Electric Co. B	59.5	59.5	58.5	59	186,800
Petron Corp.	1.78	1.82	1.78	1.8	2,805,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	60,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.56	1.7	1.56	1.7	18,335,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.43	50,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	20,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	8,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.3	3.4	3.25	3.25	1,617,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.5	936,500
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	28	28	28	28	23,000
Pancake House Inc.	1.58	1.62	1.58	1.62	40,000
Pure Foods Corp. A	120	120	120	120	500
RFM Corp.	0.98	1.02	0.98	1	356,000
San Miguel Corp. A	47	47	47	47	29,200
San Miguel Corp. B	51	51	49	49.5	120,900
Universal Robina Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	45,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.73	0.75	0.71	0.75	180,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.73	0.73	0.71	0.73	200,000
Ayala Corp.	7.7	7.8	7.6	7.7	1,478,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	37,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	13	13.5	12.75	12.75	184,300
A. Soriano Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	500,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	2,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	120,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.46	1.48	2,329,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.17	0.17	510,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.06	114,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	24	24	23.5	23.5	73,500
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	130,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	10,000
Ionics Inc.	12	12	12	12	15,100
Ipeople Inc.	0.9	0.92	0.9	0.92	130,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2	2	1.96	1.96	114,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.019	0.019	0.014	0.014	1,100,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	500,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	150,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	90,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.5	0.51	2,290,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.52	0.53	0.51	0.51	440,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.26	0.28	2,670,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	20,000
Music Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.6	28,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0925	0.095	0.0925	0.095	800,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	7,400
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	210,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.49	0.49	180,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	39.5	39.5	39.5	39.5	429,800
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	700	700	700	700	500
Jollibee Warrants	13	13	13	13	1,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	20,000,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.039	0.039	0.036	0.037	64,500,000
OTHERS					
Far Eastern University	360	360	360	360	90
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.6	5.6	1,203,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.3	0.33	3,950,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	140,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	260,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.22	2.22	2.14	2.14	5,748,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	600,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.035	0.035	0.03	0.034	17,000,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.1	2.1	2	2.02	57,000
SM Development Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	190,000
SM Prime Holdings, Inc.	6.9	6.9	6.7	6.8	8,228,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	500,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	1	1	1	1	23,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	30,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	17,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't. Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	2,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	500,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1,200,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.14	0.18	0.14	0.18	120,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	200,000
Interport Res.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.004	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	13,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	500,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	500,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	3,100,020	246,914,365.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	236,659,830	172,293,120.00
PRO	37,976,000	77,330,560.00
Mining	50,943,000	665,500.00
OIL	15,200,000	241,600.00
GRAND TOTALS:	343,878,850	497,445,145.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	617.81	DOWN 2.15
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,996.61	DOWN 21.58
PRO	567.84	DOWN 22.97
Mining	1,158.04	UP 5.40
OIL	1.44	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	757.30	DOWN 14.99
Composite	1,457.97	DOWN 26.86

NO. OF ADVANCES: 20; NO. OF DECLINES: 53; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 23; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 96; NO. OF TRADES: 1,939

Property firms turn in net profits in Q1

HOLDING firm Fil-Estate Corp. said yesterday it registered a net profit of P201.03 million in the first three months of the year from a year-ago net loss of P404.81 million.

The company, which is engaged in infrastructure development, did not give other details of its first quarter performance.

Fil-Estate was untraded from its May 3 close of 65 centavos.

Property firm Robinsons Land Corp. also posted a net income of P514.09 million in the October 2000 to March 2001 period on revenue of P1.72 billion.

The company, a unit of JG Summit Holdings, did not give comparative figures. It also said its operating income in the six-month period amounted to P717.88 million and earnings per share at 22 centavos.

Robinsons Land was untraded from its March 19 close of P2.

These reports signal a slight recovery in the property sector, which was hit hard by the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis.

Credit card firm Bankard Inc., meanwhile, said its net income for the first three months of the year was P18.489 million.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Bankard said its gross income for the period totaled P340.08 million while expenses amounted to P313.07 million.

For the month of April, Bankard said it recorded a net income of P10.483 million. The company did not provide comparative figures. *Reuters*

GG & A Club Shares

SEC License Broker #007575 • As of May 16, 2001

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	2,000,000	2,500,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	2,000,000	2,500,000
Baguio Country Club	800,000	850,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	115,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	150,000
Camp John Hay	350,000	450,000
Canlubang	850,000	1,000,000
Canyonwoods	-	350,000
Capitol Hills	125,000	140,000
Cebu Country Club	2,000,000	2,200,000
Celebrity Sports Club	210,000	Please Call
Club Filipino	250,000	300,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	-	200,000
Evercrest "A"	100,000	120,000
Forest Hills "A"		250,000
Forest Hills "B"		280,000
Forest Hills "C"		450,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	-	425,000
Makati Sports Club "B"		500,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	17,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	14,500,000	15,500,000
Manila Polo	4,000,000	4,400,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	800,000	830,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	900,000	950,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	150,000	180,000
Metropolitan Club "B"		230,000
Mimosa Golf & Country Club (Ind./Corp.)	Please Call	Please Call
Montemar (Ind.)	-	40,000
Mt. Malarayat	-	400,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	290,000	350,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	380,000	400,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	550,000	
Philippine Columbian	80,000	-
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	170,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	230,000	250,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	270,000
Royale Tagaytay "A/B/C"	Please Call	Please Call
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	250,000
Sta. Elena "A"	-	2,100,000
Sta. Elena "B"	2,200,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Corp.)	400,000	650,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Ind.)	-	300,000
Tagaytay Country Club	-	440,000
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A Palace romance

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

UNLIKE the vice gubernatorial contest in Pampanga, Mikey Arroyo's next challenge is, this time, not a walk in the park.

The presidential son has proposed marriage to a daughter of exporter Herman and Charito Montenegro but the lucky girl, who shall remain nameless for the moment, is exhibiting signs ala "Runaway Bride," according to a close family friend.

Mikey, 32, met the Montenegro girl, 27, during a thanksgiving dinner in Malacañang tendered for the extended Arroyo clan by Mikey's mother, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, shortly after she assumed the presidency.

A whirlwind romance ensued, to the initial misgivings of the girl's father.

It so happens that the Montenegro girl is a second cousin of Mikey's. The girl's mom, Charito Montenegro, is an Arroyo from Negros and a first cousin of Mikey's father and namesake, Jose Miguel Sr.

The girl's father, a former president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, controls the Pacific Activated Group, a world leader if low-key exporter of activated carbon.

The father was sounded off for the ambassadorship for Japan in 1998 when it became clear that Joseph Estrada was to become the country's 13th president. Montenegro, luckily, trusted his instincts and declined the nomination.

As an indication of Mikey's seriousness, the presidential son, according to the grapevine, is set to fly any day soon to fetch the girl in Baltimore, where the Montenegros maintain a manufacturing plant and a home.

Bookish and British

THE ROBINSON'S Place in Ermita is taking on British airs these days.

A new bookstore, Dymocks, has just quietly opened in the mall. Part of an Australian chain, Dymocks is offering English titles that normally fail to reach the local market.

The local franchisee is owned by Joey Rafael, a brother of Ayala Land executive Dave Rafael.

Next week, the UK-based Arcadia Group is opening three contiguous stores—Topshop, Topman and Miss Selfridge—within the Ermita mall. The local franchise of the wildly successful British chain is held by the Gokongweis, who also own the mall.

Ad-vẹrsarial

THE HEAD of the Campaigns and Grey ad agency, the creative brains behind the stinging 13-0 TV ads against Jose Velarde's candidates, is leaving the country to escape the electoral heat and the numerous *pikons* in this country.

Yolanda Ong has been accepted to Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government for a one-year graduate course in public administration. (Could it be that the advertising executive is considering a government career next?)

Ong was originally scheduled to leave for the Cambridge school late next month, but may now have to advance her departure at the urgings of her mother considering that the daughter has been publicly included in the Puwersa ng Masa's list of enemies.

Heard through the grapevine

FORMER Finance Undersecretary Joel Bañares is being offered the presidency of and the challenge to rehabilitate ailing investment house All Asia Capital.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Globe signs $310-M contract with Nokia

By Abigail L. Ho

GLOBE Telecom Inc., the telecommunications arm of the Ayala group, yesterday signed a $310-million deal with Finland's Nokia Networks for the expansion of its GSM (global system for mobile communications) network.

The deal was part of Globe's Phase 8 expansion program that aimed to provide its Handyphone subscribers with better service through enhanced capacity and coverage.

Under the agreement, Globe would expand its existing GSM 900 and 1800 network and services, with Nokia providing and installing an entire range of high technology telecommunications equipment.

These include mobile switching centers that serve as the "heart" of the GSM network, home location registers where subscriber database is stored, transit switching layer and base station controllers or cell sites.

"By extending the use of Nokia's complete state-of-the-art solutions in our network, we would be able to provide our customers with the best network coverage (and) level of service allowing them to enjoy and experience innovative mobile services," Globe president and CEO Gerardo Ablaza Jr. said.

Nokia's equipment can support GSM, high-speed data for faster Internet and WAP (wireless application protocol) access, GPRS (general packet radio service) which provides 24-hour Internet connection, EDGE (enhanced data rates for global evolution), and WCDMA (wideband code division multiple access) for 3G (third generation) technologies.

Garment exports growth slows down

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE FALTERING US and European economies are taking their toll on the country's garments and textile industry as exports slowed down significantly in the first four months this year.

The Garments and Textile Export Board reported that exports inched up 2.02 percent to $982.902 million in the first four months this year from $963.48 million in the same period last year.

This represents just a fraction of the industry's export growth rate of 11.6 percent during the same period last year. At this pace, the industry is way off its export target of $3.38 billion this year, which is slightly higher than actual exports of $3.2 billion last year, and the GTEB is likely to lower its target soon.

The GTEB traced the industry's woeful performance to the weakening economies of the country's two biggest buyers such as the US and Europe.

Exports to the US climbed 3.9 percent to $749.246 million from January to April this year from $721.183 million in the same months last year.

Exports to Europe plunged 6.7 percent to $101.197 million in the four-month period this year from $10.8 455 million in the same period last year. This is a big letdown for the industry which only last year saw Europe as the next big market for Philippine garments.

Last year, garment exports to Europe rose 16.21 percent to $373 million from $321 million in 1999, better than the industry's growth pace of 12.17 percent and the US growth rate of 11.6 percent last year.

The GTEB had also expected exports to Europe to grow by 16.4 percent to $445 million this year. The amount is more than three times the 5.4 percent growth rate projected for the entire industry.

The GTEB said a weak US economy had a negative impact on the region's currency, the euro. Also, the GTEB noted that big traditional buyers from Europe such as Marks & Spencer have cut down their purchases from the Philippines after downsizing their operations.

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CLUB FILIPINO	-	350 000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	450 000	500.000*/700 000**
EVERCREST A/B*	130 000*	150 000*/170 000*
FONTANA D/C*/B**	88,000/120 000*	90 000/150 000*/280 000**
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	290,000	300,000/350,000*/450.000**
LUISITA GOLF CLUB	-	550 000
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	400,000/450 000*	405.000/500 000*
MT MALARAYAT A/C (w/lot)*	395 000	400.000/2 0 M*
MANILA POLO CLUB	3.500 000	4,000 000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	850,000/950.000*	900 000/980 000*
METROPOLITAN A/B*	160.000	175.000/180.000*
MIMOSA IND./CORP.*	200.000/350.000*	240.000/550.000*
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	300,000/600.000**	330,000/425 000*
PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN	85.000	90.000
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RIVIERA A/B*	250.000	280,000/420 000*
ROCKWELL CLUB	645.000	650.000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*	100.000	120.000/150.000*
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	250.000	275,000/350,000*/450.000**
SUBIC BAY IND/CORP.*	250,000/400 000*	PLS CALL
TAT FILIPINAS GOLF A/B*	320.000	350,000/550.000*
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TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	850.000	875.000
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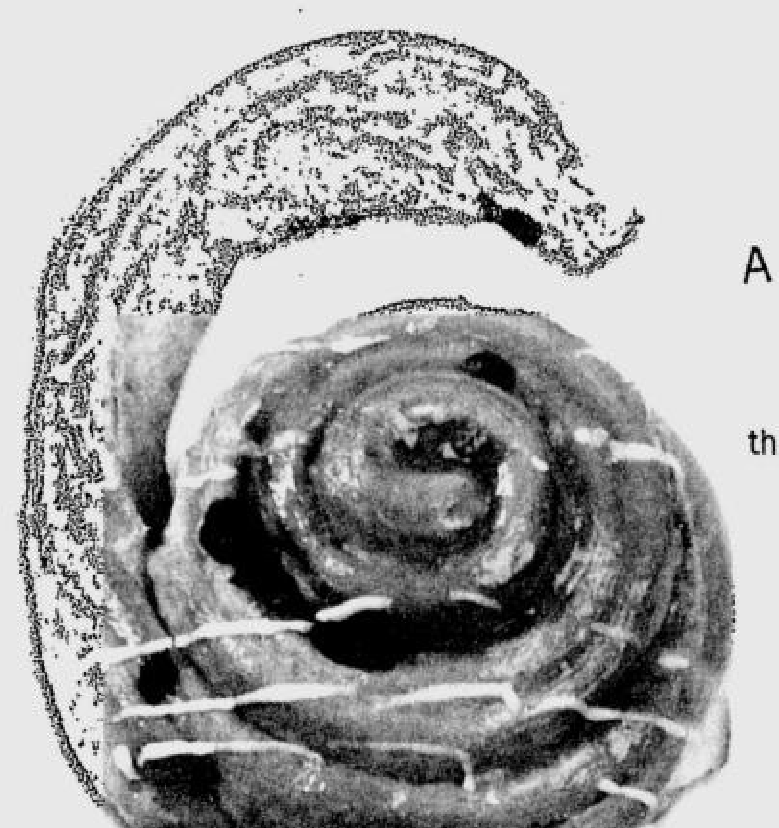

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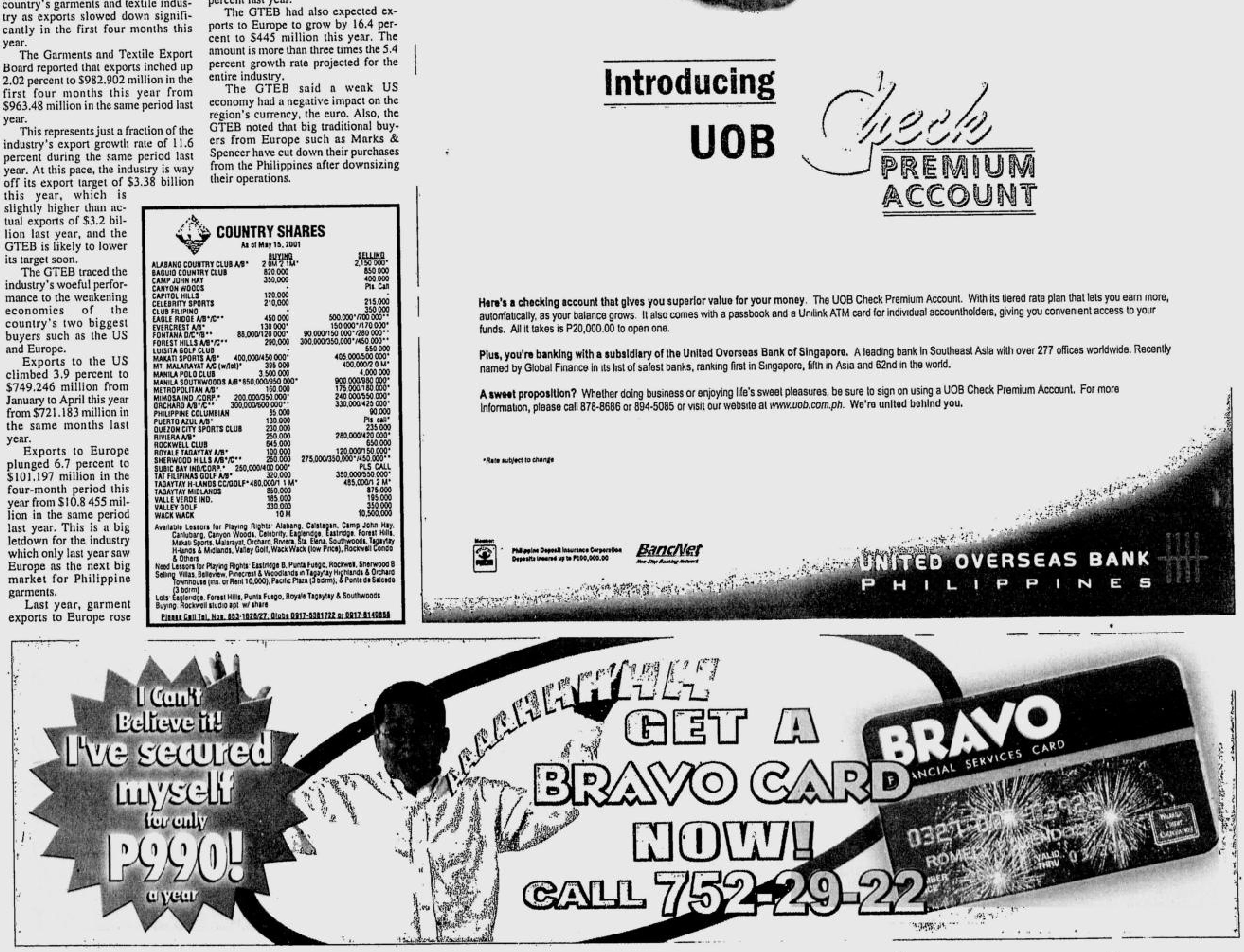

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Lexington Subd - Terms or Hse/Thse 643-5313 Cash

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Robinson Circle 460m^2 Nr Ultra Pgr 1481788421

QUEZON CITY

D. Tuazon SMH QC 411m^2 2styTel. #928-1469

SFDM QC L624m^2 wHse 2sty wHse Tel. #928-1469

Samat St SMH L600 4sty wHse Tel. #928-1469

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QUEZON CITY

Baler St. L3000 wHse Tel. #928-1469

SCT AREA NR TIMOG/GMA7 5BR NEW 341sqm 2420922

Congressional Ave. QC Comml Lot L471m^2 928-1469

D. Tuazon 430m with 7 Dr Apt 30T/m^2 • 928-3267

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Proj. 2 BN'ew B'ful 3Sty Townhouse #19 Kubili St., Tel. 434-8186 • 724-2629

Proj. 8 H&L 5M 425m^2 w/2 Sty House • 928-3267

Rolling Hill New Mla L258 2Sty 4BR 2Car 928-1469

San Antonio SFDM QC 363m^2 w/old hse 928-3267

Sikatuna Vill Big B'New B'ful 3Sty 5BR 6TB Family Hall #13 Mapagkumbaba P12.5M 434-8054 7242629

Sta. Mesa Heights Houses 65M-10M • 928-3267

Timog QC 993sqm w/Old House • 928-2497

Xavierville New Duplex 0917-7541545

RIZAL

2Sty 4BR 2TB 3.5M 6412590 643-6766 • 0917-7887315

Antipolo Mission Hills 6M(Neg) LA400m^2 New 5BR 5TB 3CG Cash/Term Lulu 6310040/127723544

Ipil St Marikina Hgts 5Bdrms Pgr 1481788421

SAN JUAN

•North Grnhills 960m^2 cor Only 38M w/pool 671-4421

Buchanan North Grnhills 892sqm Pgr 1481788421

PROVINCIAL

Tag H&L 4-6M 3BR Terms 842-1571 • 0919-2061384

Eagle Ridge Golf Sh 1.1M 842-1571 • 0919-2061384

Tagaytay L286m^2 2sty Bnew 9281469 • 4534877

OTHER AREAS

•LAGUNA BEL-AIR 3•
LA120m^2 up 2-3BR w/prkg
Joann 912-5775

CanyonWoods Btngas 7.5M ownrlvng neg0917-8143792

SOLDIERS HILLS 3Bdrm w/ attic LA210m^2 P1.350M &3BR bungalow LA204m^2 P990T Vic 8903461L 27

Upper Bicutan 195m^2 4BR P1.25M Vic 8903461 loc.27

Vicente Ilustre 240m^2 P6M with Bung • 928-3267

LOT

KALOOCAN

Deparo Cal City 5000m^2 VLot P3500T/m^2 928-1469

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264sqm Lot w/Old 2-Stry Nr EDSA 3.5M only 531-2021

Wack Wack 1100m^2 P40T/m^2 Near Manuela T671-4421

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

MUNTINLUPA

PLEASANT VILL w/direct access rd to FILINVEST Alabang 477m^2 P5,500/m^2 Vic Gigie 8903461 loc. 27/25

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PASIG

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QUEZON CITY

Bale St. V-Lot 5000m^2 Tel. #928-1469

Fairview Q.C. LA1322m^2 Comm'l Lot • 928-1469

SFDM L714m^2 Vac Lot Tel. #928-1469

Tandang Sora L1640M62 Vac Lot Tel. #928-1469

Baesa QC L932 4 L-Ind Tel. #928-1469

Del Monte L1600m^2 V. Lot Tel. #928-1469

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Calle Industria 10,000sqm Pgr 1481788421

Congressional Comm'l Lot 452m^2 20T/m^2 • 928-3267

SFDM QC 519sqm w/Imp. 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

Sta. Mesa Hts 0917-7541545

RIZAL

Imleda Ave Cainta 464sqm Comm'l 8150298/6558371

Taytay 10790sqm Comm'l 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

PROVINCIAL

Belle Reve P6700/sqm Sta. Rosa Laguna 9155177

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Tagaytay No Down 10T/mo 842-1571 0919-2061384

Tag Over Res 7,712@5T/m^2 842-1571 • 0919-2061384

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Pansol Lag P4500/sqm Hot Spring 8421571 0919-2061384

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Tagaytay Royale w/Share 447m^2 Cor Lot 6337601-03

Tagaytay w/View 5802sqm P2,000/sqm • 6337601-03

Tanza Cavite L15333m^2 Comml Lot 1T/m^2 928-1469

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EDSA VACANT LOT 1650m^2 30T/m^2 • 928-3267

TOWN&COUNTRY Southville 209m^2 P800T Vic 8903461L.27

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3BRnrDLSlle Taft 8992148

MANDALUYONG

Wack Wack Thomes 93m^2 2BR 3M 531-2021 • 0917-3955738

PASAY

Roxas Blvd w/Bay View 123BR Terms Call 928-2369

PASIG

Dona Juana 3BR P3.8M 915-5177 0917-5325440

Landmark Villa VVII 2BR F-Furn P4.1M 0917-7949085

Nr Ultra & Valle Verde 3BR Pkg Nice 3M 681-2457

PARC Chateau 2BR FF 1PS P12.5M • 6337601-03

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Woodside NMla 915-5177

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MAKATI

SANLO 3BR 5268048/49

QUEZON CITY

1br furn nr Ktpnan 6T 6819727

NR UP DILIMAN 5243126

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

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MAKATI AVE STUDIO 1PK FUR nr JUPITER 15Tneg 2420922

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ECOLOGY VILL 5268048/49

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Mkt. Asia Tower 1-2-3BR 751-8342 • 6337601-03

Mktl Yakal St. Ofc/Res 129sqm 7211269 7218179

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Cityland Shaw Studio Furn 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of Spouses SIMEON CASTOR & JUIA MACAHIA is extrajudicially settled as per Doc. No. 1311; Page No. 23; Book No. VIII; Series of 2001 by Notary Publis Atty. Rustico M. Zapata, Jr of Quezon City PDI-May 16, 23 & 30, 2001

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **Rafaela A. Castro** has been extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc#345; Page#70, Book #41; Series of 2001 before Notary Public Lope M. Velasco.

(PDI-May 9, 16 & 23, 2001)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

11 May 2001

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The National Housing Authority is inviting interested contractors who have completed similar contracts (at least 50% of the similar contract cost) within the last three (3) years and accredited with PCAB/IAC, to prequalify and bid for the contracts listed as follows:

Bid Package	Scope of Works	Project Cost (PhP M)	PCAB Category	IAC Classification
A. Provision of Roof for Three (3) Existing Basketball Courts, Phase IA, Phase IC, and Phase II, Area I, DDDP	Building construction	4.8	B	Medium A Bldg.
B. Rehabilitation and Construction of Community Facilities-Phase IB, Phase II Area 4, Phase II Area 2, DDDP	Building construction	1.5	C	Small B Bldg.
C. KBCC Building Improvement, DDDP	Building construction	1.6	C	Small B Bldg.
D. Construction of Barangay Hall/Stage, Punta, Sta. Ana Manila (re-advertisement)	Building construction	0.50	C	Small B Bldg.

I. Pre-C Forms, bid documents/plans as well as other information are available at the BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, NHA Main Building, Diliman, Quezon City, upon submission of the following: (a) Letter of Intent; (b) PCAB/IAC license with Official Receipt; (c) Certificate of Completion/Acceptance and Contract Agreement of completed similar project; and (d) Presentation of original documents for authentication purposes.

II. Payment of non-refundable fee of PhP 2,500.00 for Letter A and PhP 500.00 for Letters B, C & D shall be received only from authorized representatives.

III. Bid deposits shall be in the form of cash, manager's or cashier's check.

IV. Deadline of submission of LOI/other documents is on May 24, 2000. All other subsequent activities will be announced through a bid bulletin.

V. The NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive formality of any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. EDGARDO D. PAMINTUAN**
General Manager

(PDI – May 16, 20 & 21, 2001)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY & TO BID

The National Housing Authority is inviting contractors who have completed similar contracts (at least 50% of the similar contract cost) within the last three (3) years and accredited with PCAB/IAC, to Pre-Qualify & Bid for the contract listed below:

Bid Package	Scope of works	Est. Project Cost
1. Construction of Ugong Norte Phase I (3 Five-Storey Bldgs.) MRH Project, Bo. Ugong, Libis Murphy, Q.C.	Building Construction	P56.0M

PCAB/IAC Category	IAC Classification
1. AAA	Large B for Buildings

A. Pre-C forms, Bid documents/plans as well as other information are available at the BAC Secretariat, 3rd Floor, NHA Main Bldg., Diliman, Quezon City, upon submission of the following:
1.) Letter of Intent; 2.) PCA/AIC License with Official Receipt; 3.) Certificate of Completion/Acceptance & Contract Agreement of similar project, and 4.) Presentation of original documents for authentication purposes.

B. Payment of non-refundable fee of P5,000.00 per contract shall be received only from authorized representative.

C. Bid deposits shall be in the form of cash, Manager's or Cashier's check.

D. Deadline of submission of LOI/other documents is on May 16, 2001 All other subsequent activities will be announced through a Bid Bulletin.

E. The NHA reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, waive formally of any defect thereon, and accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **EDGARDO D. PAMINTUAN**
General Manager

(PDI – May 2, 4, 14 & 16 2001)

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For more information: Please contact **Ms. ELSIE T. DELA CURA** of **EA Int'l. Placement,** Room 203-204 Aurora Plaza Building, J. Bocobo corner Arquiza Streets, Ermita, Manila, Telephone Nos. 526-6431, 526-4642, 525-8756. Or **EA Branch Office in Bacolod City Tel. 034-4338971 or 034 4343009.**

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Department of Health
DR. JOSE FABELLA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
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INVITATION TO BID

The Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospita invites interested accredited bidders/suppliers to pre-qualify and to bid for:

1. Supply and delivery of Linen Materials fo three (3) months use;
2. Construction of Fire Exit Stairs for Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital

Pre-Qualification requirements and other details maybe obtained from the JFMH PBEC Secretariat on May 21 to 23, 2001.

All interested bidders are required to attend the Pre-Bid Conference on June 15, 2001, 2:00 P.M. at the Reception Hall, JFMH. Those who fail to attend shall automatically be disqualified from participating in the said bidding.

All bids must be accompanied by bid security equivalent to 2 1/2 % of the total bid price but not to exceed Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00) which maybe in the form of GSIS bond, cash, manager's check or bank draft or guarantee against any reputable bank or any combination thereof.

The JFMH PBEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated is the most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) LILIA A.
GUERRERO
Chairperson, PBEC

(PDI--May 16, 17 & 18, 2001)

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DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT
MALACAÑANG, MANILA

The Department of Budget and Management announces the filling up of the following vacancies pursuant to Republic Act 7041

Senior Budget and Management Specialists

The qualified applicant will assist in the development of expenditure models for the national government He will undertake fiscal policy researches and assist in the development, refinement and maintenance of a Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF)

Qualification Requirements:
- Bachelor's degree in Economics, Statistics, Mathematics, Business Administration
- 2-3 years of relevant experience and 8 hours of relevant training
- Career Service Professional
- Other Specifications. Must possess the following abilities: creative thinking, technical writing, oral communication; inter-agency coordination skills, capability to work with minimum supervision, innovative, perseverance and dedication to finish assigned tasks

Budget and Management Analysts

The qualified applicant will assist in the conduct of fiscal policy researches and assist in the maintenance of MTEF

Qualification Requirements:
- Bachelor's degree in Economics, Statistics, Mathematics, Business Administration
- Career Service Professional

Computer Programmers

The qualified applicant will provide technical assistance in the development of a web-based system for the project

Qualification Requirements:
- Bachelor's degree with training in computer programming on any of the following:
  - PowerBuilder
  - Visual Basic
  - Access
  - Oracle Developer
- Must have relevant experience in computer programming and preferably with knowledge of relational Database Management System (RDBMS) and/or Web Based application development
- Other Specifications: Perseverance, willingness to work, overtime and overnight when necessary, Cooperativeness.

Qualified applicants may apply personally or mail their handwritten Application letter, comprehensive resumé with recent photo, copy of their transcript of records, certificate of trainings in computer programming and employment record, if any to the Personnel Division, Administrative Service Department of Budget and Management, Mabini Hall, JP Laurel St., Malacañang, Manila.

Screening of applicants starts on May 17, 2001.

OBITUARIES

For inquiries, call 897-2535

Our Dearly Beloved

JOHN REY C. DANGILAN

of College, Los Baños, Laguna

Has peacefully joined our Creator on 14 May 2001

His bereaved wife **May**; sons **John Rey, Jr.** and **Ivan Zacharius**; parents **Verden** and **Beatriz Dangilan**; sisters **Rose Marie** and **Irene**; brothers **Lawrence, Valeriano, Verden, Jr.** and **James Wilbert**; in-laws **Zenona A. Asuncion, Teresita Natividad, Nida A. Santiago, Doroteo Asuncion, Jr.** request their relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the St. Therese of the Child Jesus Chapel at College, Los Baños, Laguna.

Interment will be on Friday, 18 May 2001 at Los Baños Memorial Gardens after the 9:00 A.M. Mass at the Chapel.

LEONG KOCK TONG

Peacefully joined his Creator on May 13, 2001
at the age of 73.

His bereaved wife **AIDA**; children **ALEXANDER & JENNIFER, CRISTINA, ELISABETH & BACON, JASON**; grandchildren **MARTIN, PAULINA, BRIANT, MICHAELA** and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Sunday, May 20, 2001 at 10:00 a.m. after the 8:00 a.m. Requiem Mass at the La Funeraria Paz Crematory, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

In Loving Remembrance
Of Our beloved Mommy and Lola

Purificacion Nagtalon Quintos

On her second death anniversary

The Holy Masses will be celebrated today at the ff. churches:

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Chapel (Libis)	6:30 AM
Holy Family Chapel (Filinvest I)	7:00 PM
Nativity of Our Lady Parish (Industrial Valley)	6:00 PM
Santuario de San Jose (Greenhills)	7:15 AM
Christ the King Parish (Green Meadows)	6:00 PM
Far Eastern University Chapel	7:00 AM

With faith in the resurrection and eternal life.

"We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will riase us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God."

2 Cor. 4:14

TEXT CASE

It's the people, not technology

BY ANTHONY O. ALCANTARA

(Last of two parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

"BEEP! Beep!," goes Regina's cell phone. It's another text message, another joke about "Erap." At the height of former President Joseph "Erap" Estrada's popularity—or notoriety, depending on where you stood—jokes about him contributed to the heavier-than-usual traffic that bogged down the country's mobile phone networks. Regina finds the joke very funny and decides to forward it to her friends. Soon, just about everyone knows the joke, but nobody knows where it came from.

Cellular phone companies like Smart Communications Inc. and Globe Telecom Inc. initially doubted the plan of the National Telecommunications Commission to regulate text messaging and its potentially harmful uses. It would simply be impossible, considering the hundreds of millions of messages passing through their networks.

Abusing liberties

But there is indeed a way to regulate it: By simply acting on complaints filed by those affected by the malicious, obscene or slanderous messages.

Especially during election time, the power of this relatively new medium of communication can be abused. The NTC has, therefore, consulted the Commission on Elections on this matter.

At first, a law that would ban libelous or offensive messages was considered.

Rodolfo Salalima, president of the Philippine Electronics and Telecommunications Federation, was quoted in an article by Newsbytes.com as saying that there was a need to "discourage wanton, destructive and irresponsible rumormongering through text messaging."

"Ever since the uprising that ousted then President Joseph Estrada, many saw the opportunity to use text messaging as a weapon of propaganda for the May elections. Obviously, such freedom would breed mischief and irresponsibility among people, and this is exactly the same thing that the law is trying to pin down," Salalima said.

One glaring example of such abuse was a rumor spread through text messaging that the Supreme Court decided 8-5 in favor of Estrada, although the truth was Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's assumption to the presidency was upheld 13-0.

This prompted the Supreme Court to ask the NTC and Comelec to do something about the problem.

Loopholes

Loopholes in the NTC's plan, however, can't be helped. Identifying an offending cellular phone subscriber requires a major overhaul of how cellular phone companies accept new subscribers.

More than 90 percent of some 6 million cellular phone subscribers using text messaging services are prepaid users. This means they are nameless subscribers since anyone can buy a prepaid SIM (subscriber identity module) card without presenting a valid identification card. Besides, those who apply for postpaid subscription may also give a false identity.

"This is one problem that is already becoming a headache because an offender would never be known unless he is physically tracked down. You can't ask the telecoms to require buyers of new SIM cards to present valid IDs because these themselves can be faked," Salalima said.

In court, the alleged offenders must first be identified before they can be properly prosecuted. At most, the NTC can only ask cellular phone companies to disconnect the prepaid subscription of an offender if he ignores repeated warnings.

The NTC's plan suffered another setback when the Commission on Human Rights and other groups said the commission could not simply cut off a cell phone user without a court order.

"Subscribers can always deny that they received our warnings through text messaging or that they have been asked to respond to a complaint. It's the same way when we call them. They can always deny because we don't know exactly where they are," NTC Commissioner Eliseo Rio Jr. said.

"(However), we will not be prevented from sending warnings to those sending the objectionable messages," he added.

More circumspect

Although the NTC has not backed out of its plan to regulate texting, it promises to be more circumspect when dealing with offenders.

Last month, Malacañang launched its "TXT GMA" project so that ordinary Filipinos could air their complaints or concerns to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Smart Communications Inc. and Globe Telecom have provided six numbers for this initiative: 0919-TXTGMA1 (8984621), 0919-TXTGMA2 (8984622) and 0919-TXTGMA3 (8984623), and 0917-TXTGMA (8398462), 0917-TXT2GMA (8982462) and 0917-TXTKGMA (8985462).

On the day "TXT GMA" was launched, there was a deluge of text messages to the Presidential Action Center. Most were messages of congratulations or praise. Some were about political and economic concerns. There were, however, a few lewd, obscene and slanderous text messages.

Rio said the NTC sent warnings via text messaging to those who sent the offending messages. So far, there have been no repeat offenders. Even those who were the subject of complaints filed at the NTC before had never repeated their offenses after they received warnings.

Not the technology

It would seem that the plan of the NTC has a deterrent effect. Maybe it is just a fad, too. Many avid texters before have mellowed down and have decided to send succinct or monosyllabic messages instead.

Though text messaging traffic continues to increase, this is mainly a result of the rapid subscriber take-up of cellular phone companies. There is also a trend toward other text messaging-based value-added services for news and entertainment. Wireless Internet is also slowly becoming more popular as rates go down.

Soon, it would even be lower when new technologies such as general packet radio service are introduced.

Maybe it's a matter of educating people and not technology after all. If people are educated to the proper use of technology, regulations won't be necessary for texting as well as other communications media in the future.

After all, technology is always good as long as you use it properly.

SM Prime reports 11% hike in income

SM Prime Holdings Inc., the country's premier shopping mall chain, posted a net income of P901 million in the first quarter ended March 31 this year, up by 11 percent from last year's P814 million.

Total revenues for the period grew 18 percent to P1.65 billion from P1.396 billion year-on-year. Rental revenues rose 21 percent to P1.298 billion.

Income from operations increased 14 percent to P1.003 billion for the three-month period in 2001 from last year's P879 million. Operating expenses, on the other hand, went up 25 percent to P647 million, mainly due to the opening of new malls in Manila and Pampanga.

SM Prime, amid slowing national economic indicators, continues to draw in the crowds to its 1.64 million square meters of mall space, as shoppers stick to meeting their basic needs and affordable wants.

The two malls it opened last year have shown encouraging results.

The 170,000-square-meter SM City-Manila, which opened in April 2000, is close to fully being lease-awarded and occupied.

The 57,000-square-meter SM City-Pampanga, on the other hand, which welcomed shoppers in November 2000, experienced such a phenomenal take-up rate that the company had now finalized its plans for the second phase to nearly double its original mall space.

SM Prime, once more voted as last year's best-managed company in the Philippines in two global surveys of institutional investors and fund managers, is forging ahead with its expansion program in and outside Metro Manila.

It is in the finishing stage for its 11th mall, SM Sucat Supercenter, which is scheduled for opening this month, while its other mall construction, in Davao, the 12th mall, is planned for opening late this year.

In the pipeline are plans for mall projects in Bicutan, Parañaque and Cagayan de Oro, the first phase of the Mall of Asia at the reclamation area fronting Manila Bay, plus two other sites, namely Dasmariñas, Cavite and Marikina, Metro Manila.

CURRENCIES

15-May-01

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.143511	1.000000	50.4870
Japan	Yen	0.009276	0.008112	0.4096
United Kingdom	Pound	1.624242	1.420400	71.7117
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.146607	0.128208	6.4728
Switzerland	Franc	0.652987	0.571037	28.8299
Canada	Dollar	0.737464	0.644912	32.5597
Singapore	Dollar	0.628303	0.549451	27.7401
Australia	Dollar	0.591756	0.517491	26.1266
Bahrain	Dinar	3.033346	2.652661	133.9249
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.304903	0.266638	13.4618
Brunei	Dollar	0.627958	0.549149	27.7249
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000101	0.000088	0.0044
Thailand	Baht	0.025126	0.021973	1.1094
UAE	Dirham	0.311371	0.272294	13.7473
Korea	Won	0.000882	0.000771	0.0389
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.874500	44.1509
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.447125	22.5740
France	Franc	0.152450	0.133317	6.7308
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.396831	20.0348
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.063552	3.2085
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.021678	1.0945
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000452	0.0228
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.147080	7.4256
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004362	0.2202
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005256	0.2654
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.021678	1.0945
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.110386	56.0601

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US industrial production dips

WASHINGTON—US industrial output declined for a seventh straight month in April as manufacturers continued to struggle, but a drop in inventories of unsold goods in March might point to better times ahead, two reports released on Monday showed.

The Federal Reserve said industrial output slumped 0.3 percent in April, after a revised 0.1-percent decline in March. Capacity utilization, which measures how close to full capacity the nation's factories, mines and utilities are operating, fell to 78.5 percent, its lowest level in 10 years.

In another report, the Commerce Department said business inventories fell 0.3 percent in March. The drop followed a 0.4-percent decline in February, marking the first time since 1992 that inventories had fallen for two consecutive months.

Inventories and production are closely linked. When firms have too many unsold goods on their shelves or in their warehouses, production ultimately ends up getting cut back to allow time for those goods to be worked off.

With both production and inventories shrinking, supply may be getting more closely aligned with demand. Earlier in the year, businesses had struggled with a backlog of unsold goods, a so-called inventory overhang.

"A lot of the rebalancing in inventories has been completed," said Gordon Richards, an economist with the National Association of Manufacturers in Washington.

The data came only a day ahead of a meeting by Federal Reserve officials to consider interest rate policy.

Most Fed watchers expected the central bank to cut short-term rates by half a percentage point on Tuesday in keeping with its recent pattern.

Since the start of the year, the Fed has slashed rates a total of 2 percentage points in four moves, including two between regular meetings—a sign of the urgency policymakers feel about getting economic growth back on track.

The economy grew at a 2-percent annual rate in the first quarter of this year, but the March inventory figures, along with other recent numbers, suggested that figure might be revised downward.

One of the hardest-hit areas of the economy has been the manufacturing sector. But NAM's Richards said the production report showed some signs the worst may be over for US factories.

The rate of decline in production of expensive goods for consumers had slowed, Richards said, but output of equipment for use by businesses remained depressed.

"We are near the bottom," he said.

While overall business inventories declined by 0.3 percent in March, factories reduced stocks of unsold goods by a sharper 0.6 percent, after a 0.4-percent drop in February.

Other analysts, though, were less optimistic about the outlook for manufacturing.

Peter Kretzmer, a senior economist with Banc of America Securities in New York, noted that a ratio that tracks how closely aligned factory inventories are to sales was still bloated in March.

That manufacturing stock-to-sales ratio, a measure of how long it would take to totally deplete stocks at the current sales pace, stood at 1.34 months' worth in March, off just slightly from February's 1.35.

"This also indicates that the factory sector will remain weak, as the inventory correction continues," Kretzmer said in a research note to clients.

The overall stock-to-sales ratio for all businesses held steady in March at 1.37 months' worth. *Reuters*

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Safety firm buys US icon for firearms

NEW YORK—Gunmaker Smith & Wesson Corp., an American institution that dates from the Civil War and the days of the Wild West, came back home Monday after being in British hands for 14 years.

Saf-T-Hammer Corp., a maker of safety locks and other equipment for firearms, said it acquired Smith & Wesson from Britain's Tomkins Plc for $15 million.

The price is a fraction of the $112 million Tomkins, an engineering conglomerate, paid in 1987 for Smith & Wesson—a name that has come to symbolize the gun culture in America.

Scottsdale, Arizona-based Saf-T-Hammer will pay $15 million in cash, with $5 million paid upon closing and the balance due in May 2002, the company said.

Saf-T-Hammer's stock fell about 17.9 percent to close at $1.15 on the electronic bulletin board. Tomkins rose 73 cents to $10.89 on the New York Stock Exchange.

Observers link the relatively low purchase price for Springfield, Massachusetts-based Smith & Wesson to lawsuits filed by communities seeking costs from crimes committed with guns. Gun control advocates say about 30,000 people die from firearms each year in the United States.

Since 1998, more than 30 other US cities and counties have sued gun makers for millions of dollars, according to Dennis Henigan, legal director of the anti-gun Center to Prevent Handgun Violence.

He said a suit in New Orleans was recently thrown out for legal reasons, but others were heading toward trial, he said, adding that Chicago was looking to recover $400 million from gun makers.

A Smith & Wesson spokesman was not immediately available to say how many suits were pending. No one at Saf-T-Hammer was available, but a publicist for the company said it was consulting its lawyers about the suits and their potential cost.

Saf-T-Hammer said it would incorporate its safety features in Smith & Wesson firearms, which included the famous .357 Magnum and the .44 Magnum wielded by actor Clint Eastwood in his "Dirty Harry" movies in which he urged bad guys to "Make my day!"

"Smith & Wesson, a brand name for 147 years, would be at the top of any list of immediately identifiable corporate logos recognized worldwide," Bob Scott, president of Saf-T-Hammer and former vice president of Smith & Wesson, said in a statement.

"We are proud to return this storied company to American ownership. We intend to maximize the value of the name and to fully utilize the manufacturing, marketing and worldwide distribution assets of the company to create appreciation and value for our shareholders."

"We're excited about the prospects afforded by this unique union of a firearm safety and security device developer and a firearm manufacturer that is synonymous with Americana," said Mitchell Saltz, chair of Saf-T-Hammer.

Bob Delfay, president of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, a trade organization that represents some 1,800 firearms manufacturers, said it was uncertain how much the price of Smith & Wesson guns would increase if safety features were incorporated in the manufacture.

"(But) many people like the idea of Smith & Wesson returning to American ownership," Delfay told Reuters. "But there are many fine (gun) companies that are foreign-owned. Ownership, per se, is not going to make much difference as far as whether a company is desirable to consumers." *Reuters*

Windows XP test version downloaded

REDMOND, Washington—A small number of people were able to download a prerelease version of Microsoft's Windows XP, the new version of the popular operating system, after a tester accidentally made a login name and password available on the Internet, Microsoft said Monday.

The login and password spread quickly across the Internet Friday, and Microsoft said thousands of people may have tried to download a version of the system, which was supposed to be released Oct. 25.

However, because of built-in security features, only a few were able to download it successfully, said Greg Sullivan, a Microsoft lead product manager for Windows XP. He declined to say how many exactly, citing security concerns.

About 500,000 people have authorized access to beta, or test, versions of Windows XP like the ones downloaded Friday.

Anyone who downloads the software can use it for only 14 days before having to renew the program through Microsoft.

Sullivan said the fact that thousands of people tried to download the system for free was good news from a marketing standpoint.

"I think it shows how much anticipation there is around the product," Sullivan said. *AP*

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

E-MAIL: aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph
sprojects@inquirer.com.ph

Pre-need pioneer at 32nd NMC

SOBREPEÑA

COLLEGE Assurance Plan (CAP) president and CEO lawyer Enrique A. Sobrepeña Jr. will be one of the guest speakers at the Philippine Marketing Association's (PMA) 32nd National Marketing Conference (NMC) to be held on May 22-23, 2001 at the Manila Hotel.

The Philippine Marketing Association, the largest, oldest and premier marketing association in the country has the National Marketing Conference as a major project aside from the annual Agora marketing awards. This year's conference, entitled "Opportunities Amidst Change: Winning Strategies, Effective Controls," aims to share ideas and knowledge on how to exploit opportunities during crisis to participating delegates.

Sobrepeña, the "father" of the pre-need industry in the Philippines, will talk on "Sales Force Control: Hiring Training, Nurturing and Controlling Your Sales Force." Being an icon in the industry and the pillar behind CAP's success with a trust of fund of over P12 billion, Sobrepeña will also impart his marketing prowess as a contributing writer in PMA's third marketing book project.

More than 1,600 marketing practitioners and delegates from various companies will attend this major project of PMA.

Makati CBD office seminar tour

KIMBERLY-CLARK Philippines, Inc. (K-CPI), makers of Kotex White feminine pads and Kotex Fresh Breathable Pantiliners, has announced a tie-up FemaleNetwork.com for an office seminar tour around the Makati business district.

A contract between K-CPI and FemaleNetwork.com was signed by Kimberly-Clark Phils. senior product manager Aileen Joaquin, product manager Beverly Fugaban, FemaleNetwork.com Internet sales manager Eric Roceles and Internet strategist Genevieve Valencia.

Under the contract, Kotex will sponsor the network's visits to 10 companies in Makati. During each visit, a professional speaker will give a brief seminar on issues relevant to young, career-oriented women.

The network has already visited Cable Boss/Hallmark Entertainment Network (March); MyPhilippines/ImpactNet (March); Ayala Corporation (March); and Pamatec (April). Visits are also scheduled for Digitel (May), Pacific Internet (June) and Unicef (July). Other possible venues are San Miguel Corporation, Viva Entertainment Network, GMA Network, WS Publishing (Yehey!, The Web Magazine), Nestle Philippines and Smart Communications, Inc.

Kotex Fresh Breathable Pantiliners are made to suit every woman's need to feel fresh, clean and confident everyday. It is the first and only pantiliner to have a 100-percent cotton cover variant for the softest, most comfortable feeling; handy and resealable purse to keep one's pantiliners clean and discreetly packed, and a longer and wider variant for extra protection. The product also comes in regular, scented and ultra thin variants. It is available in supermarkets nationwide.

Kotex White pads are the only napkins in the country with breathable bottom lining. This unique feature allows air to flow through the pad, yet keeps fluid in so you feel clean and comfortable. The pad's soft-dry cover quickly absorbs fluid and holds it inside the pad for a cleaner and drier feeling. The pad's channels, meanwhile, help keep its shape, thus preventing side stains.

DEATH BENEFIT ASSISTANCE TO TEACHERS
Sagip Ka 2000 Foundation, through Prudential Guarantee and Assurance Inc., in cooperation with the Department of Education, Culture and Sports will provide death benefit assistance of P30,000 to public school teachers deputized by Comelec who lost their lives while preserving the sanctity of the ballot during the May 14 elections. This commitment was made in a Memorandum of Agreement signed last week. Standing are (from left) Ditas Bona and Johnny Hernandez of Prudential Guarantee, Prudential Guarantee president Phillip Rico, DECS Undersecretary Ramon Bacani, Sagip Ka 2000 Foundation president Brother Manuel V. De Leon, and Sagip Ka executive director Rufino Policarpio.

COCOGEN INAUGURATES NEW OFFICE
UCPB General Insurance Co. Inc. (Cocogen), an ISO-certified company and one of the top non-life insurance companies belonging to the UCPB Group recently transferred to its new offices at the 24th and 25th floors, LKG Tower, 6801 Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Shown in photo during the ceremonial ribbon cutting are (from left) Lawyer Alfredo C. Tumacder, Jr. managing director; Isabelo P. Africa, president; and Rev. Fr. Alex Barrion while other officers and staff of UCPB Gen look on.

UST Hospital board has new chair

THE DOMINICAN Community recently appointed Fr. Juan V. Ponce O.P. as the chair of the governing board of Santo Tomas Hospital (USTH).

The USTH governing board is the highest policy-making body of the hospital in charge of formulating specific policies on the administrative funds of the hospital. The board is also responsible for ensuring that proper professional and moral standards consonant with the Catholic tenets are upheld and maintained by USTH in the care of patients, in its service to the community, and its clinical and various training programs.

Fr. Juan Ponce O.P. earned his Bachelor's degree in Sacred Theology, M.A. in Higher Religious Education and Doctorate degree in Philosophy major in Development Education at the University of Santo Tomas, Manila.

Along with the chairmanship, Fr. Ponce also holds the position of executive vice rector for the University of Santo Tomas.

SM 'Super Moms' mall tour

BEING a woman means pampering your body with luxurious feminine indulgence and stuffing your mind with a strong psyche in moving forward to the new millennium. Being a mother isn't that easy, nor is it that hard it's just how you manage to go on with life not only for yourself but for your children and family.

In celebration of Mother's Day May 13, Ethanworks Events and Concept in cooperation with SM Supermalls paid tribute to all hardworking moms.

SM Supermalls "Supermoms" mall tour, a Mother's Day celebration held a whole day of cooking, information, fashion and entertainment Invites everyone to come and join us for a whole day of cooking, information, fashion and entertainment.

Mall tour started with SM Centerpoint (May 4), SM Bacoor (May 5), SM Manila (May 6), SM Fairview (May 9), SM Southmall (May 10), SM Pampanga (May 12) and ended up May 13 at SM North Edsa.

The celebrations' ensemble consisted of a cooking demonstration by Julius Maggi Kitchen, an etiquette forum from John Robert Powers, a fashion show from Guess USA and Gingersnaps, and finally a serenade from Infinity recording artist Raisa Cayabyab.

This event was presented by Guess and Gingersnaps, in cooperation with ABS-CBN Publishing "Metro Working Mom", Pascual Laboratories' Betadine Feminine Wash, and Pucelle products from Mandom Phils. Special thanks also go to Marcella, Shakey's, ABS-CBN's "Alas Singko y Medya" and Magic 89.9 DWTM. This was an Ethanworks Production.

VILMA AND DIGITEL
Lipa City mayor and well-known actress Vilma Santos was guest of honor in the recent inauguration of Digital Telecommunication Philippines, Inc.'s (Digitel) new customer center in Lipa City, Batangas. Mayor Santos expressed appreciation for the company's expansion program, which installed additional telephone lines in Lipa City. Photo shows National Telecommunications Commission regional director Lilia Borjal de la Pena, Vilma Santos and Digitel vice president and general manager for RBU south Diosdado Domingo during the inauguration ceremonies.

COMPAQ ARCHIVE SOLUTION
Compaq Computer Philippines, Inc. strengthens its lead in the enterprise solutions market as it announces the Philippine release of Compaq Archive for SAP R/3, Microsoft Exchange and Lotus Domino. The Compaq Archive is a data and document archiving application that increases data integrity and opens new opportunities for the optimization of business processes. Shown during the successful launch are (from left) Juergen Mutschall, president, distributed engineering systems software and Compaq archive architect; Wilfred Alvarez, Compaq's business development manager; Thomas Ruske, worldwide technical archive director, Compaq APD; and Rudy VanderHoven, Compaq Asia Pacific director for archive.

EXCLUSIVE PBA LICENSEE
Richwell Trading Corporation; exclusive distributor of Barbie, Hotwheels, Matchbox, Pigeon, Vtech, Safety First, and Goodyear Tires was awarded recently as the exclusive licensee of PBA shoes. Photo shows (from left) PBA basketball players E.J. Feihl, Dindo Pumaren and Richwell senior group brand manager Benz Z. Jandoc at the PBA draft event at Glorietta Mall, Ayala, Makati. PBA shoes are now available at leading department stores nationwide.

BITS & Clips

Big savings at Philips X-Rage

CATCH the action and get super savings on May 18, 19 and 20 at the Fort Summer Camp, Bonifacio Global City. Philips X-rage lets you purchase Philips audio and video equipment, including micro and mini Hi-Fi systems, DVD players, cassette/CD players, MP3 players, and eargear at extremely low prices. Philips X-Rage is an action-packed weekend of exciting extreme games from world-class athletes and great entertainment. Bands and stars also perform at the event sponsored by Agfa, Milo, Pop Cola, Swatch, Toby's Sports and Hobbies, Tokyo Tokyo, Vans, Red Bull, NU 107, RX 93.1, and the Fort Summer Camp.

Enneagram at Chacra

THE CENTER for Health and Creative Arts (Chacra) offers a two-day workshop on Enneagram in Love and Work from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on May 19 and 20 (Saturday and Sunday). The workshop will be conducted by Fr. Joey de Leon, S.J. Participants will gain insights into the inner world of their spouses, lovers, family members, friends and co-workers and ways to improve relations in love and work. For reservations, call Emma at 434-5381 and 426-5368.

Roxas College HS reunion

THE 1969 high school class of Roxas College (formerly Fabella College) will hold its first reunion on May 19, Saturday, at the Coco Aroma Beach in Old Danggay, Roxas. The affair starts with the registration of members during the fellowship night on Friday, May 18 at the Roxas Christian Ministry Center. All class members are invited in this first reunion in 32 years. For details, call Nora Carvajal-Liwanag at (043)289-2097 in Roxas and Gie Capillo-Salonga at 867-1628, Nimfa Fabonan-Fadrilan at 823-0633/34 in Metro Manila, or e-mail rc_hs69@edsamail.com.ph.

Workshops on wheels

PINOYWRITERS.COM, in partnership with Goodwill Bookstore and Figaro Coffee Company, is launching the first of its Workshops on Wheels (WOW) on May 19, Saturday, with "Poetry in the City"—a poetry writing workshop for beginning writers. WOW is an exciting lemon twist on a vanilla-plain concept, transforming ordinary workshops into extraordinary adventures. Enrollment is now accepted at any Goodwill Bookstore branch. For information on the WOW concept, call Roland at 752-2737 or e-mail editor@pinoywriters.com.

HLURB celebrates 25

THE HOUSING and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) will be celebrating its 25th anniversary on May 18, Friday, at the Celebrity Sports Plaza, Diliman, Quezon City. A mass will be held at 1 p.m. and the program proper will commence at 1:30. For more information, call the HLURB silver anniversary secretariat at 924-3360 or 435-7149 and look for Lorina J. Rigor, Virgie E. Golez, or Magdalena Vergara at 926-1061 or 924-6658/60.

Robinsons Supermarket's 3-day sale

ROBINSONS Supermarket holds a three-day sale on May 18, 19 and 20. Enjoy discounts of up to 50 percent on selected products, plus great buys with bundled premiums. Promos like hourly raffle draws will likewise be conducted. An early bird shopper promo entitles the first 100 customers an instant giveaway with every minimum purchase of P1,000. The three-day sale simultaneously takes place at Robinsons Galleria, Ermita; Tutuban Center, Metropolis, Alabang; Imus, Cavite; Los Banos, Laguna; Cebu and Bacolod.

DMAP shipping immersion course

THE DISTRIBUTION Management Association of the Philippines conducts a seminar on board a vessel on May 18-21. The seminar is intended for shipping managers and professionals, and other logistics or transport staff requiring an update on domestic shipping. Itinerary is Manila-Coron-Manila on WG&A Our Lady of Medjugorje. As a bonus, participants will be rewarded with a quick tour of Coron Island. Address inquiries to Ed Sanchez at 671-4793 or e-mail dmap@i-manila.com.ph.

Ways to improve your business

A HALF-DAY practical exam on how to detect and prevent frauds in warehousing aims to maximize security and understand loss causation. The learning session is scheduled on May 19, Saturday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. A complete program on bookkeeping and accounting ("Accounting for Non-Accountants" is scheduled on May 19 to June 12, and a skills-intensive program on personality development will also be slated for May 19, Saturday, 1-5 p.m. For more details on these seminars, call the Executive Development Academy (Eda) at 521-8236, 523-6465, fax 526-4789, or e-mail executiv@pworld.net.ph.

Goodwill Book Club forum

Goodwill Bookstore's launch of the Book Club first book discussion has been reset to May 19, Saturday, from 2-4 p.m. at the Café Literati, Goodwill Bookstore Glorietta branch in Makati City. Book of the month is "The Emperor's General" by James Webb. Author James Webb is an Emmy Award-winning journalist. Interested parties can pre-register to participate in the forum. For more details call Angel Pangilinan at 810-5930/893-9079/813-4956-57 or Ruby Maceda at 893-2267/893-9058.

Edward Keller inaugurates service lab

EDWARD Keller (Philippines), Inc., member of the worldwide Diethelm-Keller Group, formally opens its service laboratory on May 17, Thursday. Located within the company premises at 2723 Don Chino Roces Avenue in Makati City, the facility was set up by the weighing, analytical and process (WAP) department to serve the chemical analysis requirements of clients. The whole-day affair starts with the ribbon-cutting/blessing ceremony at 9 a.m. followed by a series of technical lectures on Quality Control Laboratory and Process Instruments.

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WE ANNOUNCE WITH DEEP SORROW
THE DEMISE OF

ANTONIO VELASCO ORTIGA

who peacefully joined his Creator on May 14, 2001
at the age of 75.

His loving wife **MARIA BELEN**; children **Teddy** and **Linda**, **Louie** and **Lourdes**, **Sari** and **Nancy**; grandchildren **Alexis**, **Jumbo**, **JR**, **Yasmin**, **Marco**, **Kara**, **Selena** and **Lloyd**; and brother and sisters request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Holy Family Chapel,
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish Broadway, New Manila.

Interment will be on May 19, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park Sucat, Parañaque after the 8:00 AM Mass at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Broadway, New Manila.

We request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God make us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again.
2 Cor. 5:4-5

In Loving Memory

on the 34th Death Anniversary of

EDILBERTO "EDDY" G. YABUT

who joined our Lord on May 17, 1967

Holy Masses will be offered tomorrow, Thursday, May 17, 2001
at the following churches:

Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Makati City	6:00 A.M.
St. John Bosco Parish, Makati City	6:30 A.M.
Carmel Shrine, Quezon City	6:00 A.M.
Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Parish, Quezon City	6:00 A.M.
St. Joseph Cathedral, Baguio City	6:15 A.M.
Pink Sisters, Baguio City	6:30 A.M.
Baguio Cathedral, Baguio City	6:30 A.M.
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, Cebu City	6:00 A.M.
Redemptorist Church, Cebu City	7:00 A.M.
San Pedro Cathedral, Davao City	6:00 A.M.
San Agustin Cathedral, Cagayan de Oro City	5:30 P.M.
Nazareno Parish, Cagayan de Oro City	12:00 NN
St. Ferdinand Cathedral, Lucena City	6:00 P.M.
Basilica of the Immaculate Concepcion, Batangas City	5:30 A.M.

His Family requests friends and kin to remember him in their prayers.

BRO. WENCESLAO Y. CABERIO, S.J.

was called home to the Lord on Sunday, 13 May 2001.

Wake: Chapel of St. Ignatius, Jesuit Retreat House,
Impalambong, Malaybalay City. Daily Mass at 6 PM.
Funeral Mass: 9:30 a.m. on Friday,
18th of May in the Jesuit Retreat House Chapel.
Interment: Shepherds' Meadow, Malaybalay City
immediately after the funeral Mass.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF HIS SOUL.

A MOTHER'S LOVE

A devoted life words cannot explain,
sacrifices, joy, and pain.
Passion for her children's needs,
uncompromising quiet deeds.

Forever friendship tried and true,
forgiveness for the things they do.
A special gift unlike no other,
the heartfelt love God gives a mother.

Our Beloved "Mama"

BERNARDITA ALBA PATIÑO

went home to our Lord and joined her dear "Pinoy" on May 9, 2001
at the age of 88.

Her loving children:

Taboy and **Nonong Patiño**
Maggie and **Gene Young**
Cecil and **Edward Sinense**
Doy and **Dek Patiño**
Marcing and **Bobby Abad**
Iko and **Josie Patiño**
Oting and **Grace Patiño**
Larry and **Joan Patiño**
Bebe and **Celine Patiño**
Inday and **Rene Calalang**
Dodoy and **Christine Alba**

grandchildren and great grandchildren request relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the St. Joseph Chapels, Mary Help of Christians Parish, Better Living Subdivision, Bicutan, Parañaque.

Interment at the Manila Memorial Park (Sucat) will be on Saturday, May 19, 2001 after the 8 a.m. Mass at Mary Help Of Christians Shrine.

EFIGENIA ASTORGA PORRAL

September 21, 1913 — May 14, 2001

(Widow of the late: **FIDENCIO L. PORRAL, SR.**)

Her children **Vicente** and **Colita**, **Ricardo** and **Juditha**, **Rodolfo** and **Erlinda**, **Joseph** and **Susan**, **Andres** and **Vivian**, **Fidencio** and **Nenita**; grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for eternal repose of her soul.
Her remains lie in state at St. Peter Memorial Chapels at Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.
Interment will be on May 19, 2001 after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Quezon City

SPEAKER FELICIANO BELMONTE, JR.
and the
MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

mourn with deep sorrow the passing away of a distinguished colleague

HONORABLE MARCIAL C. PUNZALAN, JR.

Congressman, 2nd District, Quezon
1992-1995, 1995-1998, 1998-2001

who joined his Creator on Saturday, May 12, 2001
at the age of 52.

His body lies in state at the Marcial Punzalan, Sr. Memorial Gym, Barangay V, Lucena City and will be brought to the House of Representatives on Thursday, May 17, 2001 at nine o'clock in the morning. Requiem Mass will be held at 2:00 p.m. followed by Necrological Services. His remains will stay in the House of Representatives for an overnight vigil.

Interment will be announced later.

We request pious readers to offer prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous.
Teach me to serve you as you deserve.
To give and not to count the cost.
To fight and not to heat the wounds.
To toil and not to seek for rest.
To labor and not to ask for reward.
Save that of knowing, that I do your most Holy will.
Amen.

DR. IRINEO M. PALMA

Professor Emeritus, University of Sto. Tomas
Former Chairman, Department of Surgery, University of Sto. Tomas
Former President, Philippine College of Surgeons
Former President, International College of Surgeons, Philippine Section
Former Secretary, International College of Surgeons, South Pacific Federation
Chairman, PRS Food Corporation (Jollibee Roces)

Peacefully joined our Creator on May 14, 2001 at the age of 84.

His dearest wife, **Rosenda Villar**; children **Marlyn** and **Angel Romero, Jr.**, **Marie Anne** and **Bert Santos**, **Rene** and **Tina Monzon**, **Danny** and **Annie Marquinez**; grandchildren **Milette** and **Dowa**; **Katrina**, **Chito** and **Herbie**; **Andre** and **Ina Dominguez**, **Paolo** and **Joey**; **Ginger** and **Kinney**; great granddaughter **Elise**; brothers and sisters **Angelina** and **Max Orevillo**, **Cristino** (†) and **Geny Cruz**, **Sonie**, **Dorrie**, **Chito** and **Pres Felix**, **Mnsgr. Jun** and **Dita**; in-laws, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Capilla de San Francisco, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

The Holy Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated on Saturday, May 19, 2001 at 9:00 a.m. at the Santuario de San Antonio.

Cremation rites will follow at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

Feedback for troubled gov't employee

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

IN this issue, we wish to give our readers the opportunity to share their views and feedback. We are featuring here the letters we received on the issue of the "Troubled government employee."

One is a letter from the chair of the Civil Service Commission giving sound suggestions that the government employee can pursue. Another is a job offer from the marketing support manager of an insurance company. The third is from an employee who shared his experience on how he applied the advice that was given to the government employee to his own job. It is fascinating how this advice column has become a sounding board for different people at work to come together and benefit from each other's views.

Civil Service

Karina Constantino-David, chair of the Civil Service Commission wrote, "We came across the letter sent to you by a 'troubled government employee' (Philippine Daily Inquirer, April 18). We are certain that he would fully appreciate the options you have presented him through your column. May we proffer though one more suggestion, an addendum to the fourth option of being a force for positive change within the agency. This may appear a tall order but he can be a catalyst for change in the office. He can teach a lesson or two to his officemates on efficiency and dedication.

We admonish him to remain focused with his work despite the apparent lack of professionalism in his present workplace. If he believes that the inefficiency is intolerable and has greatly prejudiced public service, he can bring the matter to the Civil Service Commission through its *Mamamayan Muna, Hindi Mamaya Na!* program, a bureaucracy-wide campaign that aims hopes to instill prompt, courteous and efficient service among state employees. He can call the *Mamamayan Muna Hotline* at phone no. 9320111 or e-mail us at *pid4csc.gov.ph*. In so doing, he has not only helped stem the tide of ineptitude but has rightfully earned the taxpayer's centavo.

Other feedback

The Marketing Support Group of Prumerica wrote, "Good morning! This is with regards to your article last April 18, 2001, on the 'troubled government employee.' We like to seek your assistance in reaching your letter sender for a possible employment in our company. Our company needs more people like that of your readers, Ms Puangco! We would very much appreciate it if we hear from you the soonest time possible.

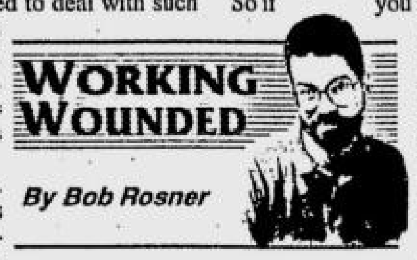
The third feedback is from an employee whose name is withheld upon request. He writes, "Greetings to you in the name of peace! I read your column dated Wednesday, April 18, 2001, entitled 'Troubled Government Employee Seeks Options,' hence, this communication. As a Technical Employee, I have been doing the same menial things over and over again, such as shop drawing and drafting, all manually. In many long years of service to the company, I went to study computer graphics. It is fortunate, after all I have done to finish Computer Graphics, the management of the company and my superiors are so insensitive and selfish they refuse to give me the opportunity to apply what I have learned in my job. (In the length of my service to the company, nobody bothered to give me a chance toward professional growth and development despite the fact I did try to have a little accomplishment even without their support whatsoever).

What makes the situation immoral is some employees are bent on destroying me by their relentless intrigues damaging my reputation and dignity. As of now, it is only my determination and principle to continue my work that keeps me fulfilling my job. Looking forward, I am planning to continue my studies of Computer Programs to take trade test, a graduate course and review class for board examination. Thank you very much for your goodwill advice. Please pray very much for me. To God be the glory."

How do you coach the best from your employees?

DEAR WW: Every business book I've seen recently has talked about how it's important to "coach" employees. But I've yet to see a practical list of coaching strategies.

I'm No Gipper



By Bob Rosner

Ah, yes, the trendy "c" word. Let me coach you through this topic with a story about a guy who biked across Africa. When I heard him interviewed, he was asked how he managed to deal with such life-threatening problems as war, AIDS and drought, and I'll never forget his response. "That was the easy stuff!" he said. "The real challenge was the bugs and traffic."

Coaching is like that, too. Would-be coaches often focus on the big stuff (like annual reviews). But it's really the day-to-day stuff that gets between you and your employees. William Hendricks' book, "Coaching, Mentoring and Managing" (Career Press, 1996) is full of exercises and case studies on the do's and don'ts of supervising. I've adapted the following questions from it.

1. Are you talking with your employees or at them? Remember how your parents would stop talking and start lecturing? How "I want you to..." and "you should..." would take over the conversation? Well, coaching rule no. 1: eliminate "I want" and "you should" from your vocabulary and replace them with genuine attempts to involve employees in solving problems. "What can we do about this?" will be music to their ears.

2. Can you talk about their behaviors, not their attitudes? Hendricks points out that behaviors can often be changed, while attitudes are notoriously inflexible. So if you have an employee with a "bad attitude," don't criticize the attitude. Give concrete feedback on the behaviors that displease you. "I've noticed you've been late a lot recently. Anything I can help you with?" will do more to change the behavior, and the attitude may come along for the ride.

3. Do you exaggerate when discussing their performances? Few things turn off employees more than being the subject of an exaggeration. Instead of, "you're always rude to customers," try, "that woman might not have gotten angry had you admitted your mistake to her."

4. Do you assume the employees are out to make you look bad? My dad always thought that anything we did wrong we did for "spite." He gave us way too much credit. See mistakes as opportunities to teach rather than as conspiratorial plots to bring you down.

5. Do you follow-up on your promises? Ever hear of the manager's double standard? That's when the manager expects employees to do what he asks, but doesn't always do what the employees ask.

6. Do you reward improved behavior? Two things motivate employees beyond all others: achievement and recognition. Leave your stick home and bring only your carrot to work. The results might surprise you.

Someone who played for the legendary Vince Lombardi once observed, "Coach treats us all alike—like dogs." That approach works great if you're a football coach—or if you manage a kennel.

Here are the results of the recent workingwounded.com poll: Which of the following actions by your boss annoys you the most?

—Yells and screams, 7.4 percent
—Isn't there when needed, 31.4 percent
—Micromanages, 61.1 percent

Our winning coaching strategy comes from Carol F. in San Francisco. "Before telling anybody how they should handle some situations, I ask them what they've tried or considered already. This tells them that I realize they've already done some intelligent thinking before I came on the scene. So I'm not treating them as if they haven't a clue as to how to proceed."

(E-mail feedback to bob@workingwounded.com.*)*

Sharing helps CEO retain...

(From page B12)

her. This friend was aware of Puangco's background in management. "Because of my training abroad, San Miguel felt I was qualified to fill in the position of internal consultant for organization development. I understood then that God wanted me to change careers," says Puangco. She stayed with the company for five years, eventually becoming manager of the group. If that fateful "accident" had not occurred, Puangco might have stuck it out with her first love.

From San Miguel, she moved to the Bank of the Philippine Islands to work as AVP for organizational productivity and training, and later on, as VP for training and development, and concurrently, for PR.

Puangco shifted gears at this juncture in her career and decided to study at the Asian Institute of Management, after which she taught at the same institute for two years.

Economy of sharing

During her stay with AIM, Puangco learned about the Focolare Movement. Focolare was started by a certain Chiara Lubich and was rooted on the principle of the "economy of sharing enterprise." "The idea was to share one-third of your company's profits with the poor. It appealed to me. I had a good career and I felt it was time I gave back something to God by helping the less fortunate. With a continuing enterprise, I felt I could help on a continuing basis," explains Puangco.

Motivated by the humanitarian idea, 10 years ago, Puangco converted a room on top of the garage of the family residence into an office and hired one of her nieces as secretary. She was on her way. For a start, she had four clients. Among them was Coca-Cola Far East. After six months, Puangco moved her office to Makati.

"Ancilla," she elaborates, "does consultancy not only on HR though it is founded on that. We offer other services as well, such as strategy planning and management, long-term complex change, human resource and organization, learning and training solutions and IT solutions. We do mostly consultancy, about 60 percent, while the rest is HR and training." Ancilla has a staff of 45, 30 of whom are consultants.

Strategy planning

What challenges her interest most, says Puangco, is strategy planning and management. "This is because it enables us to influence a company's direction, where it's going." She particularly enjoys handling executive teams. In fact, her work is concentrated on this. "I would like to optimize my time. Besides, there are very few consultants, who are able to work on this level, which I believe is the point of highest leverage."

A bigger challenge Puangco faces is how to make her company stand on its own merits. "We continue to train and develop consultants and we don't compromise on our standards," she says. "Clients shouldn't ask for Tita Puangco all the time."

If they do, there's a good reason. After all, Puangco, owing to her vast experience in the corporate world, has honed and perfected her craft. "With experience, what you do becomes an art," she says. Moreover, she has a genuine concern to help the clients. "Money is secondary. What is more important is to be of real help and to make a difference," allows Puangco.

Personal values

Personal values are equally important to her and Puangco sees to it that hers are intact. "In my profession, I believe one must serve as a model for others and encourage them to nurture and become fulfilled during their stay in the organization." Puangco also believes in bringing an adequate knowledge of world-class technology to her work.

How does she keep up? "Participating in local and foreign seminars and workshops and congress is one way," she points out. Subscribing to business magazines is another. So is surfing the Internet, which is always a rich source, says Puangco.

In addition, because she is one of 50,000 members of the Focolare Movement in the country, she has access to the economy of sharing network. "I have established a global network of consultants as friends. Of course, one has to be generous as well." Being active in a number of associations also provides Puangco with infinite opportunities for growth in her profession.

Puangco, by the way, is mother to two sons and two daughters. Her eldest girl, 24, clearly following in her footsteps, head Ancilla's strategic alliances and research group. Her husband is chair of the company. "He is also my financier," says Puangco smilingly.

Global company

One of Puangco's goals is to make Ancilla a global company but at the same time, she would like to keep it right here in her own country. "I would not want us to leave home," she quips.

Puangco believes having put up Ancilla is her most significant achievement so far. "I think it is the thing that gives me so much peace and fulfillment." But what gives her total unalloyed joy is handing over a check every quarter to Focolare's social center, which takes care of the needs of the poor. "This is my biggest high," remarks Puangco.

And always a source of satisfaction, she acknowledges, is being able to help, whether it is a huge conglomerate, a medium-scale enterprise or a single individual. There's satisfaction, too, for Puangco in the profound friendships she develops with clients.

Being a management consultant, opines Puangco, is just a role she plays. "Titles don't make a man. They are merely an illusion. What is important is to be simple, to not be afraid to ask and to be daring sometimes. What's even more important is to be aware of what it means to be a Christian Filipino."

(To mark the first year anniversary of People at Work, the consultants of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting will be conducting a seminar on "Effective Coaching" on May 31, 2001, Thursday, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Soriano Conference Room at the Asian Institute of Management, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. A minimal fee of P200 will be charged for the seminar, the proceeds of which shall be donated to a charitable institution. To register, visit the Inquirer branch offices in SM Megamall and Atrium, Makati or the main office on Chino Roces Ave. Call 897-8808 local 554 for more details.)

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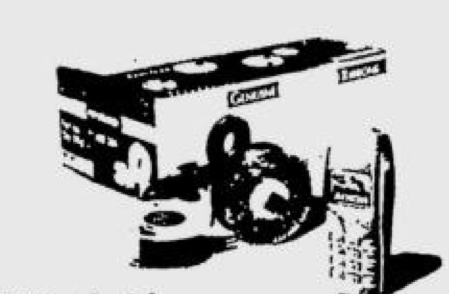

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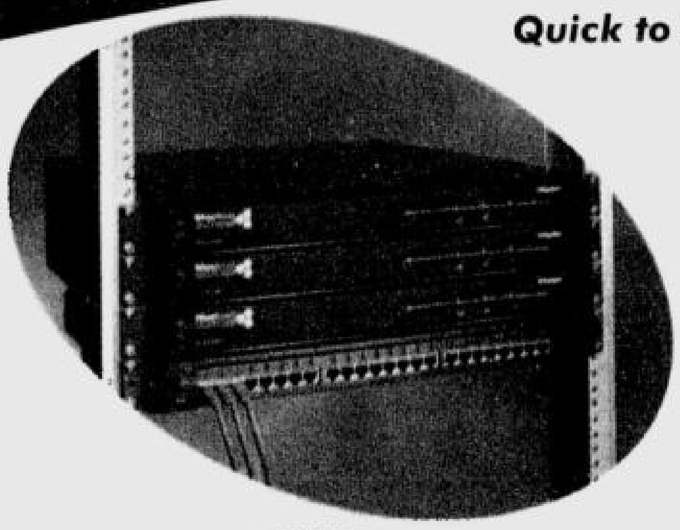

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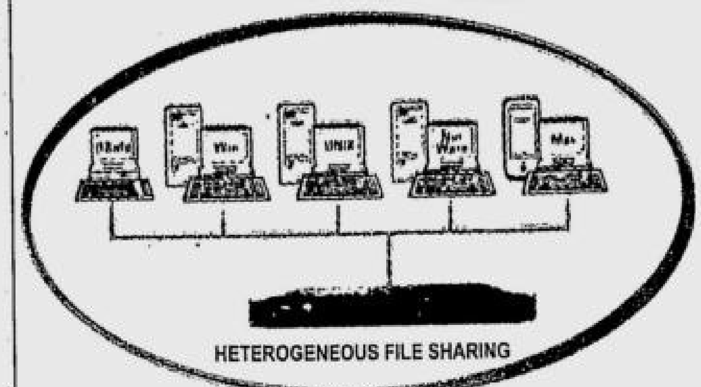

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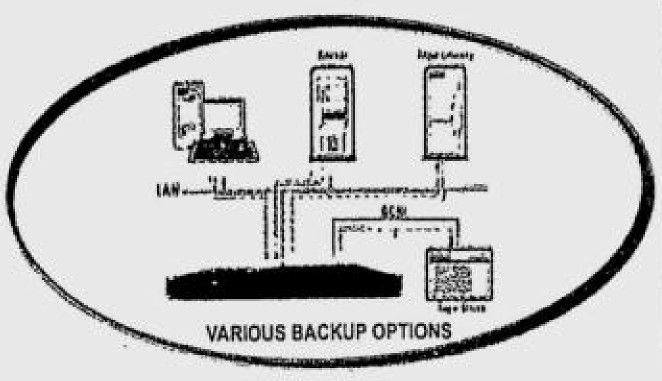

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PEOPLE at WORK

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ **REGINA GALANG REYES**, Subsection Editor

Sharing helps CEO retain amazing grace

PUANGCO

PHOTO BY ROGER CARPIO

CAREER*Tales*

By Cecile G. Garcia

CORPORATE success need not mean being turned into a driven, relentless and hardboiled career person. Tita D. Puangco, president, CEO and founder of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a 10-year-old, full-service consultancy company, certainly did not turn out this way.

Despite her unplanned but nonetheless impressive success, Puangco remains "grounded on the right things," as she puts it. "I am, first of all, a child of God, and from this all consequences flow. I would like to be a deserving steward of His company," she says, referring, of course, to Ancilla.

Helping hand

Ancilla, incidentally, is a Latin term, which means "helping hand." Her consultancy firm, says Puangco, is a whimsical twist of fate that must have been God-sent. Puangco claims journalism was her first love. She earned it at the University of Sto. Tomas where she graduated magna cum laude, and pursued it, first, by working for a newspaper and subsequently, for a radio station.

But what proved to be fortuitous was the stint she had with a government-owned network. "Through a fellowship," says Puangco, "the network sent me to the University of Chicago to study HR-related courses, which included organization development." Puangco admits she had little knowledge of the discipline until then.

Then, an accident occurred. "I broke my leg in a vehicular accident and I was bedridden for six months," recounts Puangco, who found this a good opportunity to reflect.

Accidental career

While she was recuperating, Puangco got a call from San Miguel Corporation. A friend of hers at the TV network had referred the company to

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CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor ■ PAM PASTOR, Chief of Correspondents

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Little big taipans

More and more young people are turning to business not only to add to their meager allowance but also to learn the ropes of entrepreneurship. Parents are heaving a sigh of relief—the trend will at least keep the pesky brats from raiding their wallets

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Entrepreneurial kings

BY TAMMY DAVID
PHOTOS AND ART DIRECTION BY MIKE ALQUINTO

I MUST say the 2bU! staff are the best crammers. With only a week of planning, last Friday's shoot was one of the best photo shoots ever. This didn't involve David LaChapelle or a million dollar set but five Entrepreneurial Management students from the University of Asia and the Pacific and one of 2bU!'s favorite photographers, Mike Alquinto, with locations from Rockwell's classy driveways to Pasong Tamo's busy street.

The five young entrepreneurs gamely played the role of Kings of the streets in their comfy and colorful Replay get-ups (some didn't want to take them off after the shoot).

UA&P's Entrepreneurial Management is a haven for young entrepreneurs. It's odd that no girls enrolled in such course. It is one of the best and newest courses and all the boys have the same objective: To be your own boss. By the time they'd graduate, they would be certified entrepreneurs. As their program director says, "Pressure is the law of progress."

King of Castelle

21-year-old Alvin Clement Castillo was born to a family of entrepreneurs. Alvin engaged in various business ventures, one of which is selling lollipops to his schoolmates. At present, Alvin is handling Castelle Marketing which offers beauty care products. His mission is to bring out the beauty in every Filipino.

Excess made him big

Incoming sophomore Laurence Niño Castaneda wanted to follow his father's footsteps as a businessman. This 19-year-old's original plan was to manage a chunk of land to be given by his father but this was sidelined by a better idea. Together with three other friends, he became a middleman, selling excess stocks of textiles. Now they're into subcontracting.

Mr. Independent

21-year-old Tarek Schoenfelder wanted to be his own boss and the E.M. course was perfect for him. Tarek is cut out for business and the course's sense of independence appealed to him. He has been traveling around Asia but has been living in the Philippines for the past 10 years. He plans to get into trading, shuttling between Germany, where his family lives, and the Philippines. His future plan is to have a base here in Manila.

The sophomore strikes back

What sets 19-year-old Timothy Lim apart from other counter strike addicts is he owns his own Network Gaming and computer rental store in Mendiola. And this sophomore student plans to own several different businesses.

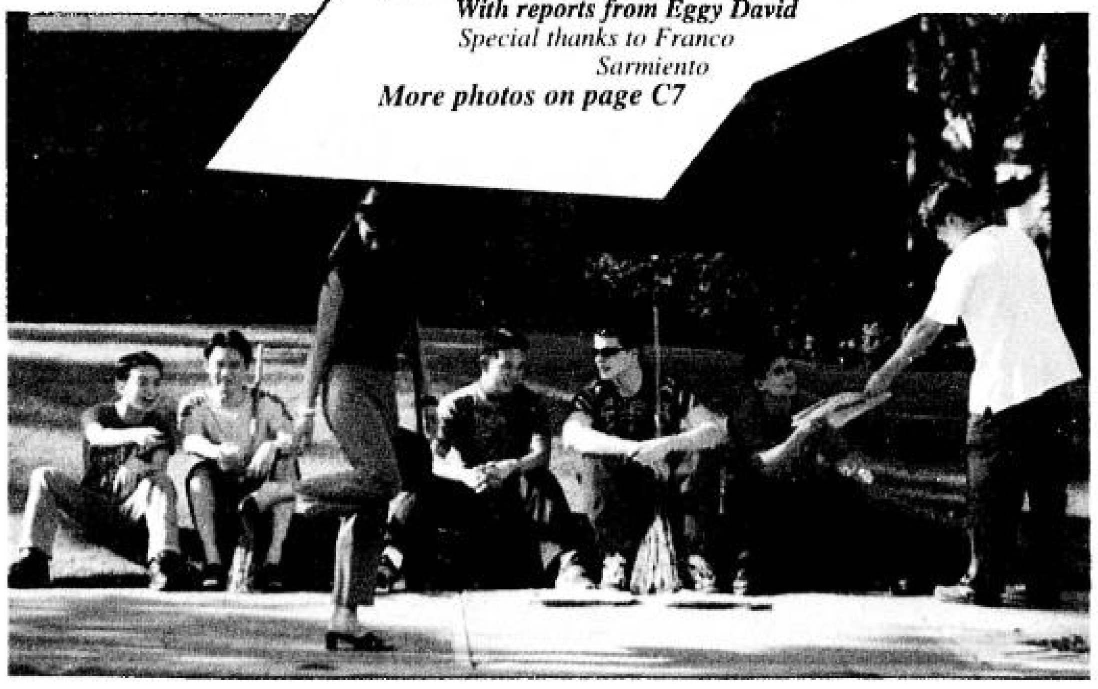
The creative chip

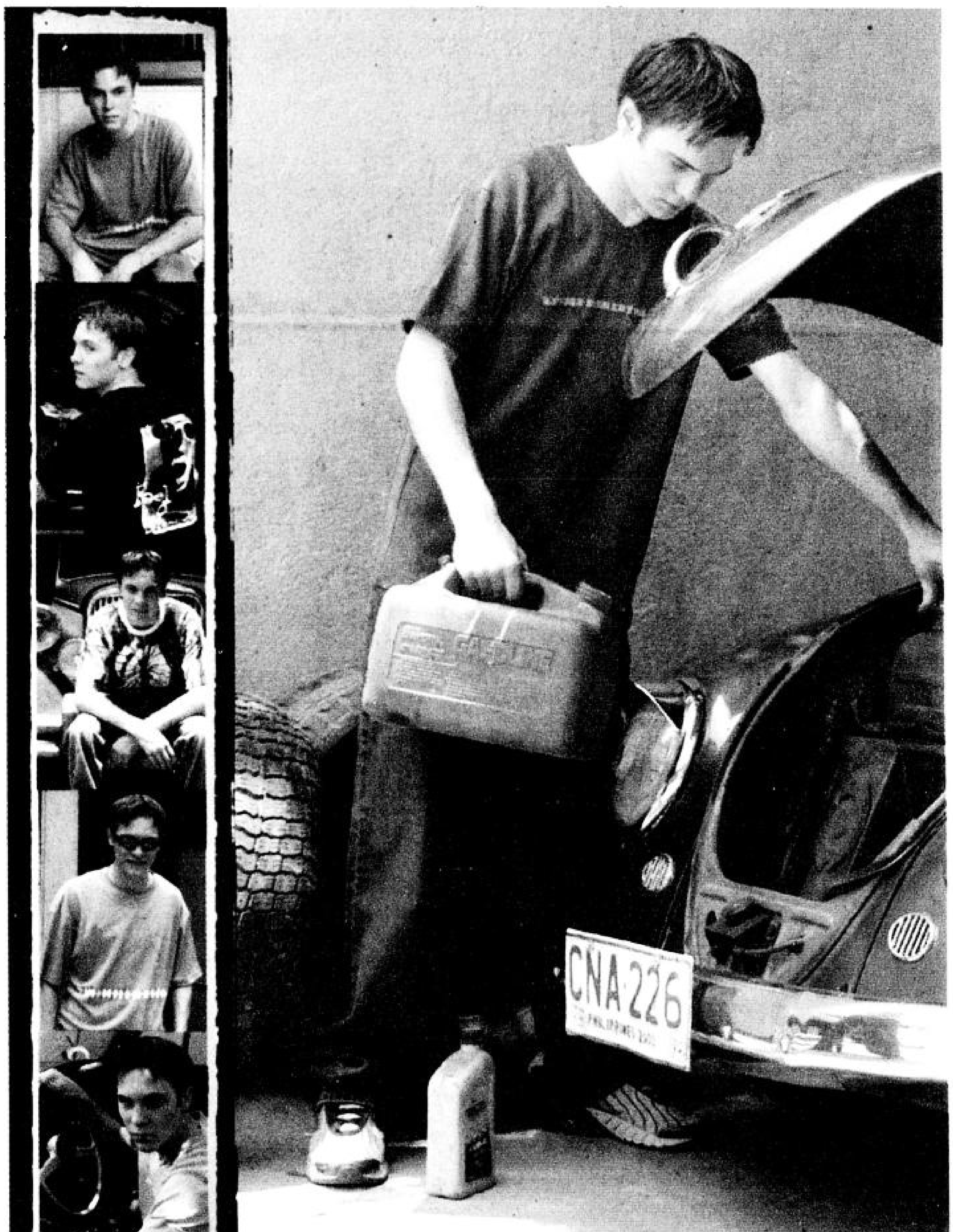
E.M. wasn't really Carlos Angelo Dayrit's first choice but who would have thought that Carlos or "Chips" eventually became the president of E.M. Chips couldn't picture himself in a 9-5 job. "E.M. encourages you to be independent, outgoing, innovative and creative. It wants you to enjoy what you do and make money out of it," says Chips who also put up the National Association of Student Entrepreneurs (NASE) which has members from Saint Scholastica's and Saint Benedict to name a few.

With reports from Eggy David

Special thanks to Franco Sarmiento

More photos on page C7





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Surviving wallet malnutrition

2bU! sends three writers to the mall with P100, P300, P500 in their respective pockets. How can they stretch these budgets?

P100

GIVEN P100, how does one survive malling? This was the dilemma posed by our beloved 2bU! chief. I would have hollered at her for the very constricting budget she gave me if not for the fact that the bills sandwiched between my wallet totaled somewhere along that line—a hundred. So I didn't have any choice, did I?

As it turns out, wallet malnutrition is something most teenagers have to contend with (as if someone has to tell you that). Money limits movement. The more money you have, the more courageous you are to go beyond your curfew just to have a good time. The less money you have, the less time for you to even think of where to hop over next. Most likely, you'd rather stay home.

But let's say home has been such a bore and you're getting sores from lying on your bed. Then the mall is the next best thing that will bring color to your dreary life. But the clincher is you've only got a hundred bucks. What are you to do? Ehem, my purpose exactly. Together, let us explore the possibility of stretching the lowly hundred to a half-day of quality mall-time entertainment.

First, realize that a Manuel Roxas is equivalent to a hundred P1 coin. Yes, it's almost that worthless. Having realized the dilemma you are sucked in, you should be more conscious of letting go of your dough! A half-day in the mall can be roughly translated to seven hours, and hours don't exactly swift by if you're not doing anything. That's where the "picture" comes in. Yes, I mean the movies.

At SM, movies would cost you an average of P50, leaving you enough money for snacks and soft drinks. Coke costs around 20 bucks, chips at P20, and P10 would be enough for your fare if you live nearby. But, you ask, a movie usually runs for just 1½ hours, right? Yes, I know. But in your desperate attempt to spend your half-day in the mall, you shall have to repeat the movie twice! Mwahaha. So make sure that movie is worth warming up the theater seats.

If, however, there is absolutely no movie worth your P50, then try heading to a bookstore. I swear I can spend hours on PowerBooks or National Book Store just browsing through almost everything. You may not be spending anything, but it can get a bit tiring having to stand for hours.

Head to the magazine section and buy the local publications that cost somewhere between P60 and P90. If you have enough money left, read the stuff at a coffee shop, or savor it together with a bubble gum-flavored McFlurry from McDonald's at P20.

NO BROWSING
Glam
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VOG
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P900

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

You're not a film buff or a literary person? Then do what most people actually do when they're in the malls—window shop! Although I don't see the point of having to "starve" yourself with the wonderful clothes, shoes, CDs that you can buy, then literally starve yourself later after having gone through all the shops. You'd not only come out tired, you'd also come out depressed. But hey, if you're happy with that, then I'm happy, too.

You guys very well know that two heads are better than one. Then think of how much five heads of Roxas would cost. Yup, if you and five of your friends would only pool your resources together, then a nice get-together at a restaurant you fancy would be possible. Seven hours wouldn't even be enough for all the storytelling.

But I have a better suggestion. If you only have a hundred, stay at home, buy all the junk food you can munch on and watch TV. I pitied myself gallivanting inside the mall with just a hundred in my pocket. *Jason Doplito*

P300

I'M not good with money. That's a fact since I realized the value of money. You'd think that would make me tight with my money. While I do deposit every single paycheck into the bank, I still manage to spend a portion of it in the mall.

Strapping on my good sneakers, I headed to the mall and tried to budget P300. Okay, I'm used to doing this. The mall thing, that is. The budget thing? No. Because the words "math" and "accounting" haven't been part of my vocabulary. And I would have to live on a *specific* amount of money and see how long I could last.

I arrived at the mall by 12 nn. Lucky for me, I hardly go to Makati, so Glorietta was an entirely different mall compared to the Ortigas establishments I often go to. I decided to go to Tower Records and browse the racks, since I wasn't that hungry yet (had a heavy lunch before I left the house. Wink, wink!). I can spend hours in a record store just looking at CDs. CDs in listening booths suck and one guy just wouldn't let that Godsmack go. I decided to go to Music One. Hey, you can never get enough music!

I want to watch a movie. I've spent an hour-and-a-half looking at CDs. A no-brainer for me since I love watching flicks at the movie house. I'm too paranoid about spending on movies since I always end up buying too much food to bring inside the theater. I ran into a friend of mine, Trici, who asked me to accompany her to a movie. Can't say no to that! Even though the film "Sugar and Spice" (P90) was a bimbo film, I was happy I had someone with me, not to mention someone who bought me a Beaver Tail and soda.

I was hungry again, and it was around 5 or 6 p.m. I opted for a Burger King meal. If there's one thing I learned from a university that's surrounded by restaurants, it's that Burger King meals are tummy-filling. I got a Value Meal No. 8 (P69). Trici bought me fries which I soaked in catsup.

I need a new CD rack and I heard from a friend that Dimensione has a bunch of pretty cool ones. We headed to Rustan's to see the goods: A bunch of wall-hanging racks that's perfect for my room. Of course, I couldn't buy anything in that store with my measly P141. We went around Rustan's and checked out more household items. I collect picture frames, so looking at the numerous ones on display took up some of our time.

Call me weird, but I never wanted to leave the mall without buying something I can bring home. I was running out of lip gloss, which meant we had to pay Bench a visit. Their lip gloss tubes rock and they're reasonably priced at P89 a pop. Pam gets frustrated whenever I point this out to her and after she purchased a similar Tony and Tina tube that costs more than P800.

I still had P52. It was almost 8 p.m. and Trici had to go home. I made a quick pit stop to Beaver Tails and picked up a Beaver Tail for myself. Eight hours in the mall for P300. Not bad. Next time I'd be bringing more friends so I'd spend less. *Maui V. Reyes*

P500

BELIEVE me when I say that budgeting isn't one of my skills. I'm not tight-fisted when it comes to money—the understatement of the year. I once said, "You can spend the money you have now because more will just keep coming in."

My friend, who is older than me and deems himself to be wiser, laughed and laughed. "That's not true, dude. That's not how it works," he said, still chuckling, I guess, at how clueless I am.

But that's been my principle. Life is too short for deprivation. You work hard for the money, so spend it. And, yes, although I've had a few dry spells, I've always been able to make it through. Will I make it through a day at the mall with only P500? I think so. As long as I avoid shoe stores.

I left the office and hailed a cab. I was in no mood to commute. The skies were dark. I had no desire to prance around in the rain, especially since I never brought an umbrella with me. The cab pulled up the Glorietta 4 driveway minutes later. My fare plus tip? A whopping P60. That left me with... well, you do the math.

First stop was Replay, where Happy and I were gonna pull out clothes for the next day's shoot. That deed done, I was alone again, with tons of time to kill before my 7 p.m. interview. I decided to watch a movie.

Although everyone I knew was telling me not to watch "Sugar and Spice" because "it sucked, big time," my stubborn side prevailed. I got myself a ticket (P90). Since I haven't had a single bite all day, next stop was Taters, where I ate sour cream-and-onion fries and frozen Coke (P78) and the Pizza Hut booth, where I bought a slice of bacon and cheese (P27).

I settled back to watch the movie which was, to put it nicely, not one of the intelligent flicks I've seen. I felt so drowsy the whole time (blame it on my cold medicine) to the point of actually dozing off a couple of times.

When the flick was over, I walked around Glorietta to kill time. No shoe stores, no shoe stores, I chanted to myself. But I saw cute dangly earrings in The Museum Shop. I made a mental note to come back for them when there are no budget constraints.

I headed off to the interview. It ate up a good couple of hours. I asked my mom to pick me up when it was done. I actually brought the book I'd been reading the past days with me, just in case I blew all my money and would have a need for entertainment. But the mall isn't exactly the ideal place to get cozy with a book, so I just went to Time Zone. After all, it's been a while since I last indulged in my Percussion Freaks addiction.

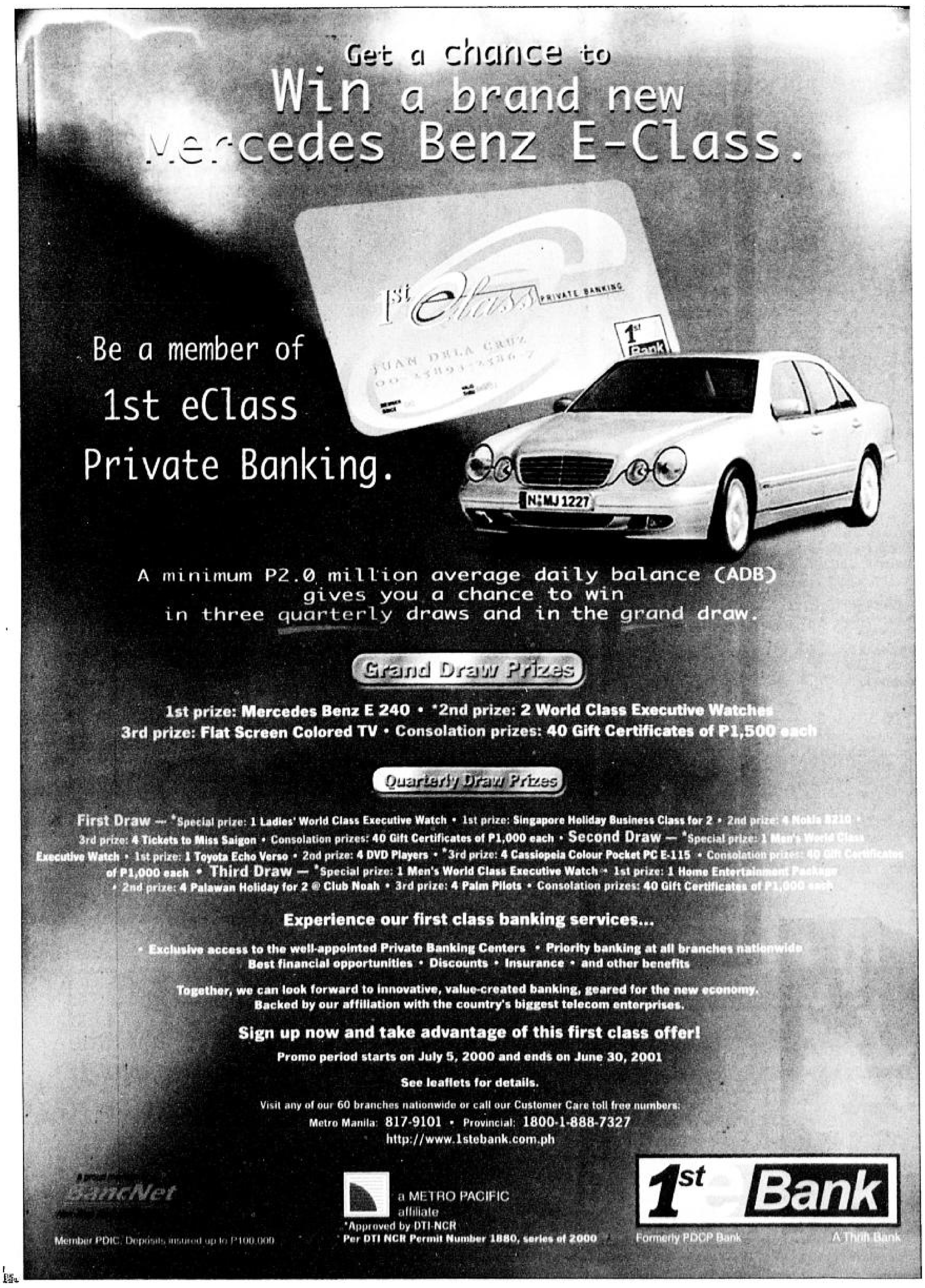
I loaded P100 in my card and played two games of PF. The rest I spent on shooting hoops. My hundred bucks didn't last long. My mom was still on the road. I went to Universe Café and renewed my membership. Their fee had gone up 20 percent. It was now P120.

After shelling out the dough, my wallet had a grand total of P25—oh, wait, there's something in the coin compartment. A two-dollar good luck coin given by two Thailanders I met on a trip months ago. But there are just some situations when good luck is utterly useless. Thank God my mom was picking me up.

I had time to spare. Though it was unnecessary (since I could do it as soon as I got home), I checked my e-mail. I had barely started when my mom called. She was already in front of Tower Records. Since I didn't use up my free 15 minutes, I wasn't charged extra by the Cybercafé. I hurriedly made my way down. I jumped into the car and breathed a sigh of relief. I survived.

On my way home, I got to thinking. I made 500 bucks disappear just like that? Damn. That was no joke. Families could have meals for P500. Okay, okay, so I had fun. But I could have stayed at home and read all day and I would have been as happy—with my wallet P500 fatter.

This is bad. I need to rethink my principles. Need to keep track of my expenses more effectively. Need to put more cash in my bank account. Need, need. I need those dangly earrings now. Oh well. Here we go again. *Pam Pastor*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Cheap gimmicks and dates

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

By Maui V. Reyes

YOU know the drill: It's summer, no classes, meaning no allowance. For those who are grilling their summer days away at the take-out counter to rake up some cash for gimmicks, well, you don't have to kiss that paycheck goodbye once you receive it. Believe it or not, there are other ways to enjoy gimmicks with friends that don't require heavy cash usage. 2bu! serves up some fun ideas you could try out the next time you meet up with the gang or head out for a date. And no, we won't take fries with that.

- Head to a bookstore. Sounds dull, but you'd be surprised at all the weird little treasures you'll find in there. Buy a book of poems, sit down at some café and take turns reading verses to each other. If you're in luck, the bookstore could have a poetry reading session—and usually they serve snacks with those.
- Do some star-gazing. Bring a constellation chart and take turns spotting those damn animals in the sky. Can't find those wachamacallits? Make up your own.
- Potluck! Go out of town and have a picnic somewhere. Don't have enough gas? Head to the top of the highest building and have a picnic while watching the sunset. (It'd be problem-free if you ask permission from the folks who are in charge.)
- Have a video marathon. Make everyone bring their fave movie to someone's house and have an all-night no-sleep marathon.
- Get cultured. Go to art shows and galleries. Some museums may require an entrance fee, but that's what student ID's are for—great discounts! While you're at it, see a play.
- Work. Sounds icky? Not when you're with your friends or that special someone, *and* you're doing it for charity. Join organizations like Habitat for Humanity and do something special for someone else for a change.
- Take a walk down memory lane. Flip through old yearbooks and scrapbooks of you and your friends. Better yet, *make* new ones.
- Go window-shopping. You've probably done this a gazillion times, but nothing beats browsing in record stores and switching CDs at listening booths. It's track 3 over and over and over and over...
- Tired of pining over things you can't buy? Go to flea markets, garage sales and other bazaars that boast secondhand treasures. You'll be surprised at all the trinkets and bizarro things you'll encounter. Buy something for each other on a small budget.
- Ever tried ice skating? Bowling? Some establishments have free trial offers and the like, as well as awesome discounts.
- Get in touch with your inner child. Hang out at a playground or bring out those old board games that you haven't touched since the last millennium. Who said Monopoly was boring?
- If all else fails, enjoy a peaceful, quiet walk. It's free, it's easy to do and you don't have much interruption, meaning, you can get a conversation going. Just make sure you don't decide to take a walk on a very busy street—stick to your village or a nearby park.
- Try kite-flying. Pack up and drive to Subic, where tons of other activities are taking place.

Travails of a 'kuripot' girl

(and being 'kuripot' is not that bad)

By Gmeleen Faye B. Tomboc
Correspondent, UP Diliman

I'M *kuripot*. Even though the word brings to mind the likes of Scrooge, the quintessential miser, I'm not ashamed of my frugality. Not that I stay up every night counting every centavo I have (I don't!), but I must admit I'm thriftier than most people. I use crayons instead of Stabilo Boss to highlight my notes. I will correct the jeepney driver if he gives me change for P4, and not for the usual student fare of P3.50. Usually I ask the waiter for tap water (lest he give me mineral water) whenever I am asked, "Drinks *ninyo po*, Ma'am?" Even when I was in third grade, I'd make a list of all the things I wanted to buy and then come up with a budget on how I'd spend my Christmas money.

Cheap alternatives

There are other ways to be careful with money. A lot of my friends have taken to buying clothes at surplus stores and at the *ukay-ukay* in Baguio instead of designer stores. To satisfy a chocolate craving, you can opt for Chocnut or Safari chocolate bars instead of Twix. Go for those value meals or combos when eating out without your parents. Be more careful whom you lend out money to, and don't be afraid to remind your loaners (but be tactful, though) about their debts. All these tips may sound like what Lumen would say in a Surf commercial ("'*Singsarap, pero 'di 'singmahal*"), being kuripot is really about being thrifty in every small way possible, not necessarily starving yourself to death, as some people might think.

> Being 'kuripot' does not necessarily mean starving yourself to death

What's so good about being thrifty? While it's not always flattering to be called a tightwad, it's not exactly fun to run out of money. The best thing about being *kuripot* is that you can save and have money for emergencies. When the credit on your prepaid card nears zero, you can reload without having to beg from your parents or to borrow from your friends. In the event the gang decides to eat at some ritzy restaurant for dinner, you can go along since you know you have a little spare cash. And you don't have to miss the Corrs' concert when they drop by Manila because you already have the moolah to buy tickets. So while saving 10 percent of your weekly allowance may not exactly make you a tycoon, it does help you make the most of what you have, that is, if you don't mind being called *kuripot*.

Discipline

The other nice thing about being thrifty is that, as corny as this may sound, it builds discipline. Eventually we (or at least most of us) are going to have to leave the comforts of our parents' home and live on our own in what we call the real world. Unless you can happily subsist on *pan de sal* and instant noodles, or get really lucky and earn P100,000 a month immediately after graduation, it pays when you know how to budget.

Being *kuripot* also has its bad side. Aside from having to take all the banter in stride, if you're perpetually keeping track of how to spend every peso, you lose out on the joys of spending. Sometimes, barring credit limits, it's nice to shop until you drop without ever having to worry about anything. But for the rest of us mortals who have to contend with a finite supply of money (read: allowance from our parents), it's better to be thrifty most of the time.

Lest I start to sound like the reincarnation of Scrooge, let me clarify that I'm not talking of buying only second-hand clothes or walking home even if it's already 10 p.m., all in the name of thrift. Once in a while, splurge. Or buy something you've always wanted with the money you've saved. What's the point of having all that money in the bank if you're never going to enjoy it, anyway? After all, the best reason for being *kuripot* is you're saving up for something, be it tuition money or even a new pair of shoes. And that's definitely not something to be ashamed of.

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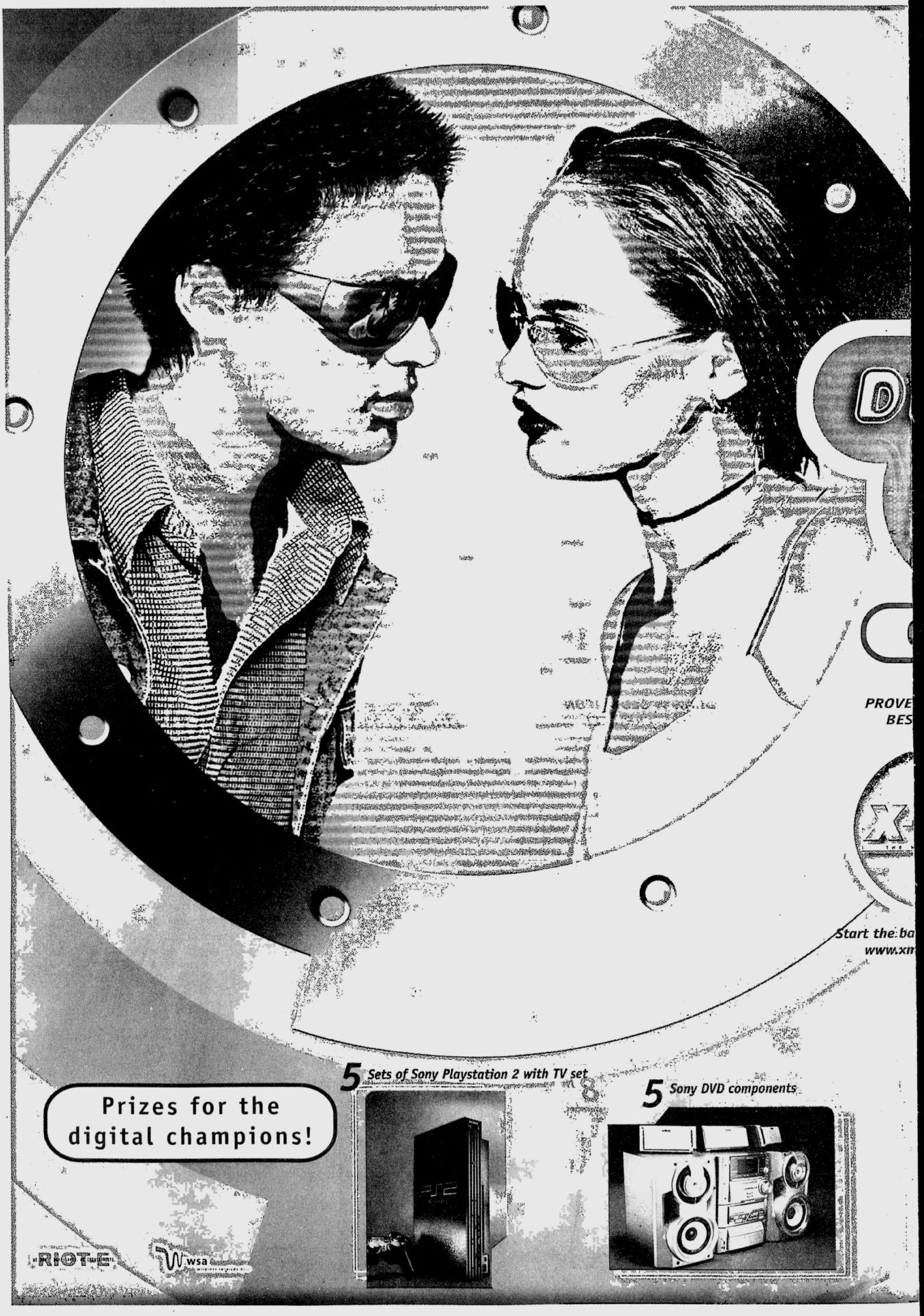
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Here are the different Digital Face-off Challenges you can join. You may only join one of the four contests, select the one that you like. Game registration: May 14 to June 10.

Join the X-MEN Contest : Register your mutant character via InfoText or WAP! Those who choose to join via InfoText will not be allowed to join via WAP or vice-versa. Log-on to www.xmenthegame.com regularly to see the Top 20 players of the InfoText and WAP games. Qualifiers at the end of the contest shall be invited to the Globe Digital Face-Off event!

1. Register and play the game via InfoText

For first time users:

- Key-in XMEN, your code name, and your birthday in this format: XMEN CODENAME MM.DD.YYYY ex. XMEN CYCLOPS 06.03.1976
- Send the message to 2324

Existing X-Men: The Mobile Game users will need to register a new character using with a new codename.

- Key-in XMEN, CREATE, new code name, and your birthday in this format: XMEN CREATE NEWCODENAME MM.DD.YYYY ex. XMEN CREATE WOLVERINE 06.03.1976
- Send the message to 2324.

2. Register and play the game via WAP

For first time users:

- Using your WAP phone, go to Globe's homep
  New Sites or Games.
- Click on XMEN the Game and select Start a
- Enter mutant group name, your Globe Handy

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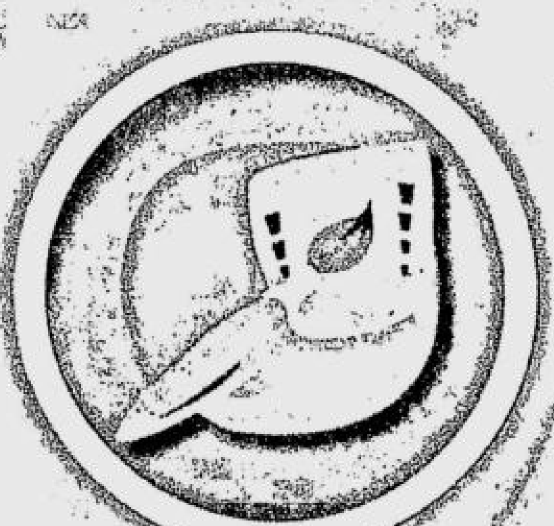

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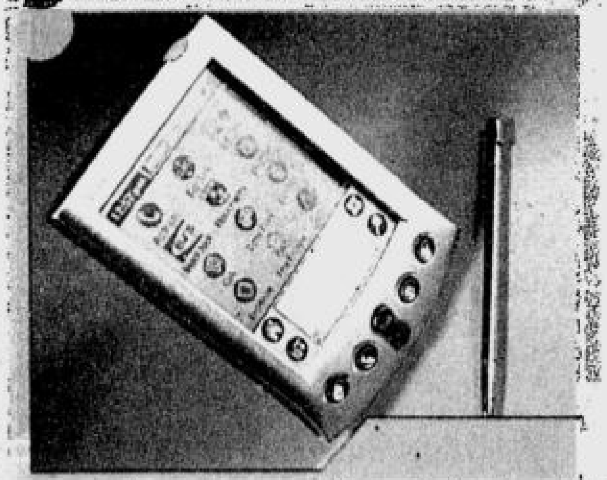

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- Using your WAP phone, go to Globe's homepage and click on New Sites or Games.
- Click on XMEN the Game and select Start a new game.
- Enter your NEW mutant group name, your Globe Handyphone number, and NEW password.

Join the GlobeTones, GlobeIcons, or Text Cards Contest : Choose one and show your best. Weekly winners of every contest shall not be allowed to join in succeeding weeks.Check out www.globeinteractive.com.ph to view the Top 10 compositions and winners for the week. Qualifiers at the end of the contest period shall be invited to the Globe Digital Face-Off event!

- Log on to www.globeinteractive.com.ph to join the contest.
- Click on the Contest link and choose to join any of the following:
  (a) *GlobeTones contest*
  (b) *GlobeIcons contest*
  (c) *Text Cards contest*
- Follow instructions in the website and submit your entries.

Per DTI-NCR Permit #0693. Series of 2001 Go to www.globehandyphone.com.ph for details

Business tips that you must take to heart

By Jules Alcantara

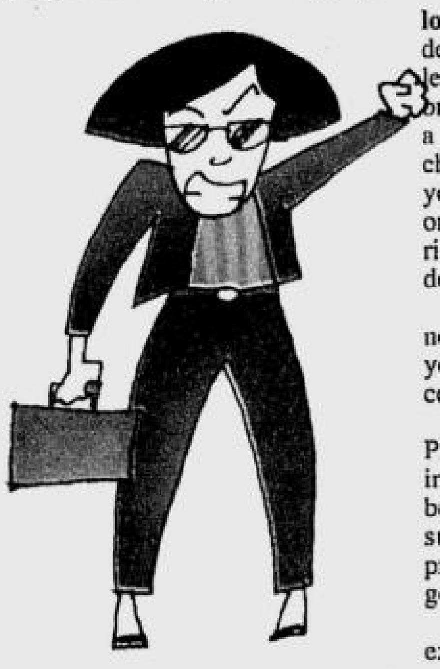
EVERYONE would surely agree that many of us dream of becoming a boss, a taipan, a ship captain or even a king. Or the next Bill Gates, Manny Pangilinan or Virgie Ramos.

We all have foresight (and imagination) regarding our career paths.

But ask any student what they plan to do after graduation and most often than not the answer is, "I wanna put up a business" or "I wanna be a company CEO."

Easier said than done? It can be done and it can happen, even to ordinary mortals like us. Bill Gates was a certified nerd way back (and still is) in high school for crying out loud!

Read on and learn from these young people who have started a business or made their ascent in the corporate world. They may not have reached the top but believe me when I say that these people know exactly what they are talking about. They may not be MBAs but they have had hands-on experience, which, one wise person says, is the best teacher. No motherhood statements here. Just simple tips from people who actually had the gumption to get up and go instead of sleeping on their dreams.



Auster Perez

President
Boxy Inc.

Choose a business that you love. With the time that business demands and the depth of knowledge you have of the business, it only makes sense to have more than a passing interest in the field you choose to enter. It is necessary that you learn your business well, in order for you to reduce the level of risk. You are doomed to fail if you don't know your business.

Get a mentor. Successful businessmen are always willing to give you a piece of advice. Seek their counsel.

Set your priorities and goals. Prioritize tasks and then tackle them in order. In addition, goals should be realistically attainable and measurable. Value your time and prioritize the tasks where you are good at.

Be frugal. Keep unnecessary expenses to a minimum or you will run out of cash. This is a leading cause of failure for new business.

Look forward. Long-term planning results in longer-term benefits for you. Adopt or develop a good foresight. Look forward, plan forward.

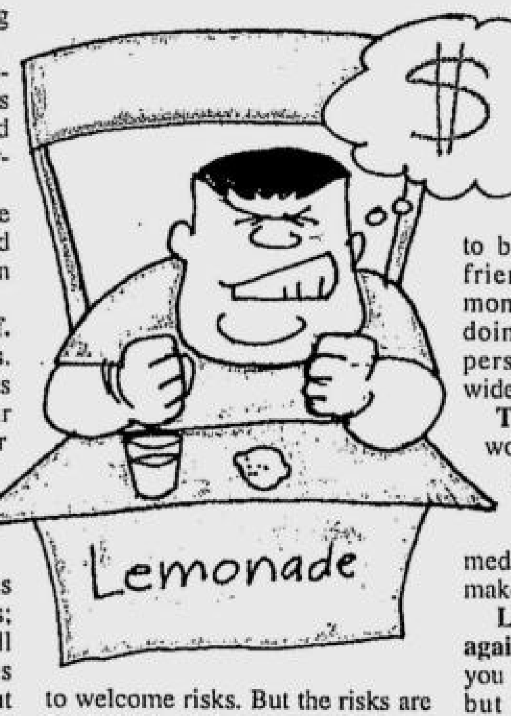
Quality. Quality is No. 1 all the time. Customers can detect slipshod service a mile away. Never waver in aiming for high quality work.

Continue to educate yourself. Learning is a never-ending process. Attend seminars and conventions within your field of business. Your business will grow and your employees will benefit as well. Be open to criticism for this will help your business.

Give importance to your employees. Your employees are the backbone of your business; without them your business will plummet. Treat your employees like friends— be close to them but not too close. You must know where to draw the line.

Expand your network. Most communities have entrepreneur associations that meet regularly for moral support and to swap ideas and advice. Always expand your network. Be sociable, approachable, and friendly.

Take care of your health. Enjoy life. We spend our health to gain our wealth. As we get older, we spend our wealth to gain our health.



Tonito Payumo

Co-founder and Managing Director
Pinoyauctions.com

Know how to take a paycut. Meet people at Starbucks rather than in a posh conference hall.

Be a seller by heart. This is vital because, if you are going to run a business, you should be someone who can sell your ideas and your team to the venture capitalists (VCs) and your products or services to customers.

Be a risk-taker. Pinoyauctions was broke several times before, and even after making it. The principle is not to risk bankruptcy but more to welcome risks. But the risks are calculated, and one should be a good judge of acceptable risk levels in order to succeed.

Be driven. You have to have something in you to keep you going, especially when everyone, including a part of yourself, thinks you should give up.

Be a hard worker. Some people think that putting up a website can make them rich the easy way. That's baloney! It's hard to get people on the site and it's even harder to make them stay on the site.

Be bold and brash. Why? Because we have to be shameless in asking friends and family for money and contacts and doing the same to every person we invite to our widening network.

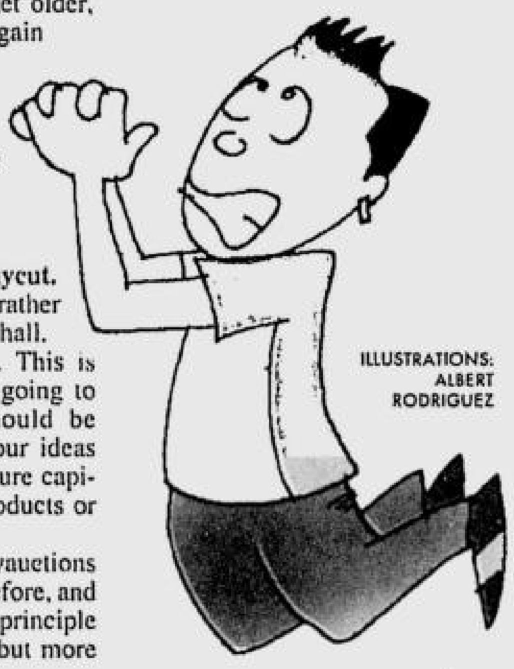
Think big. Business isn't worth starting unless it's going to be big—at least US$100 million. If we were satisfied with just making it medium-sized, then we'll never make it big.

Learn how to handle rejection again and again. Not only should you know how to risk bankruptcy but also be prepared for the brickbats. You have to be prepared in facing failures and jealous people who want you to fail.

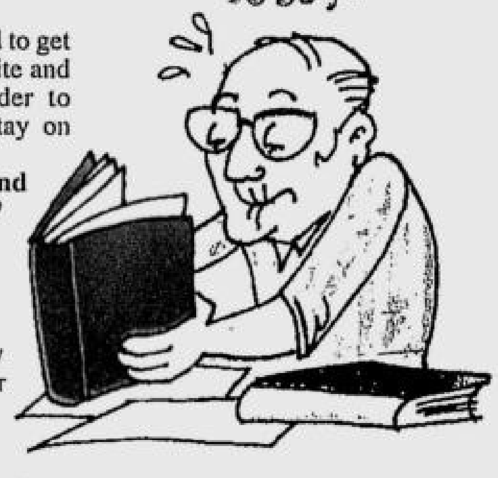
Take decisions easily and quickly. Learn to delegate. When you are starting a new business, you cannot possibly do everything. Delegate tasks and concentrate on your strengths.

Innovate and learn how to solve your problems. The business environment of a start-up will present you with many unique problems. The successful ones will find quick solutions to seemingly insurmountable problems.

Be optimistic. If you're not enthusiastic or optimistic about your venture, no one else will be.



ILLUSTRATIONS: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ



Oneil Buena

Product Development Manager

Don't exhaust yourself learning the tricks of the trade. Learn the trade. Have a solid understanding of the career and business you wish to pursue. There's no use positioning yourself to a certain post without understanding first its true nature.

Treat yourself as an individual company. Deal with your boss, colleagues and peers with the same type of service a high profile company would offer their clients.

Set reasonable goals. You must be able to plot where you want to be during the peak of your career and establish a realistic action plan on how to reach them.

Have passion in whatever you do. Don't do things out of obligation alone but also because it's what you love doing and is something worth achieving. Your passion is your motivation.

Do ordinary things in an extraordinary way. This is a useful principle I learned during college. Put value in everything you do especially the "usual" stuff.

Have a "process perspective." When dealing with tasks and projects comprising different people, focus on how things came to be instead of blaming the people involved.

Communicate effectively. You must be able to effectively relay your message, ideas and visions to people you work with.

Room for improvement. Have the diligence and genuine interest to discover new things. These new discoveries will make you more equipped in your chosen career.

Work hard, play hard. Balance your family and social life.

Pray. There is Someone greater Who always guides you. There is always a need for spiritual refreshment in the same way that you yearn for physical relaxation.

E-mail the author at jules26@gurlmail.com

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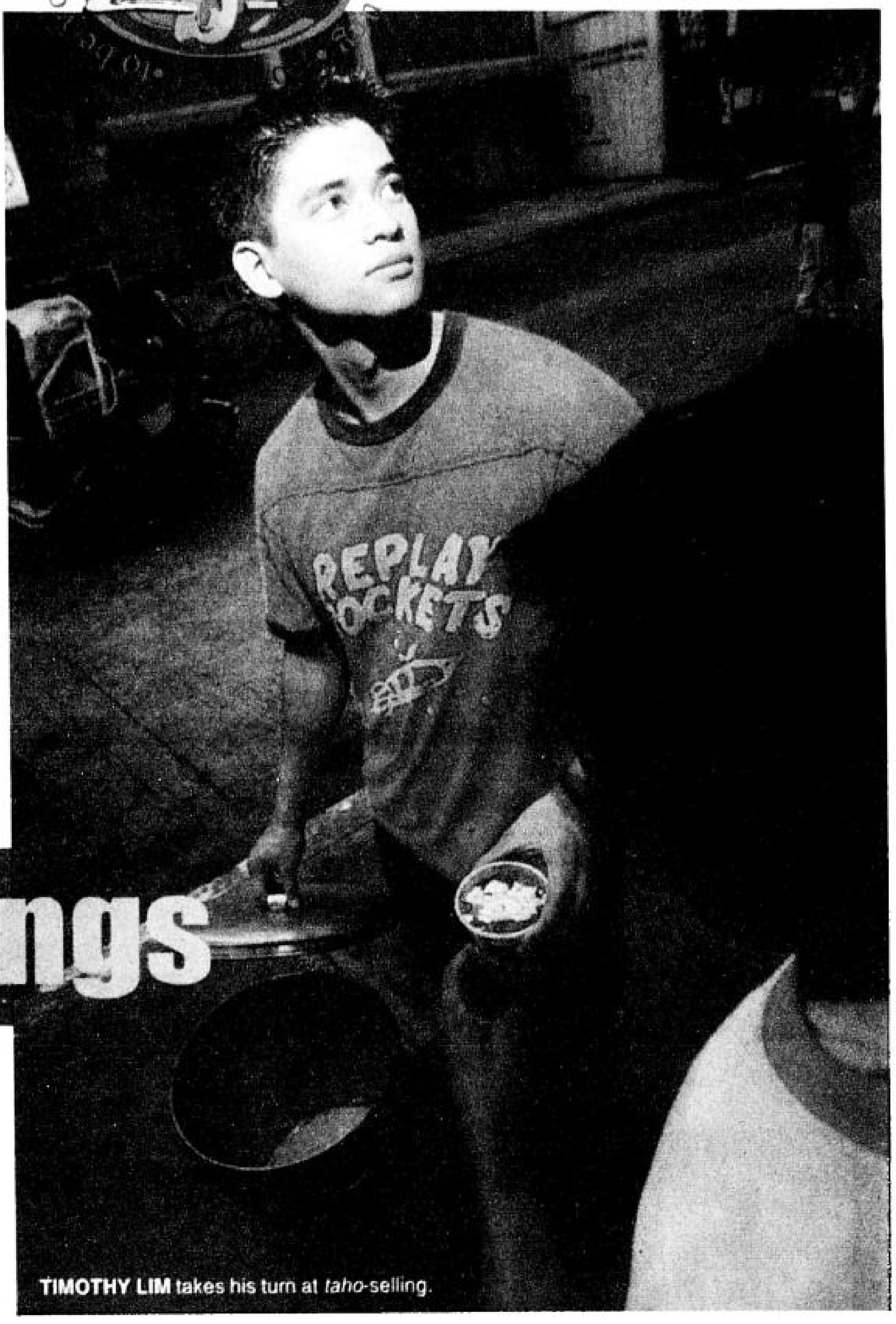
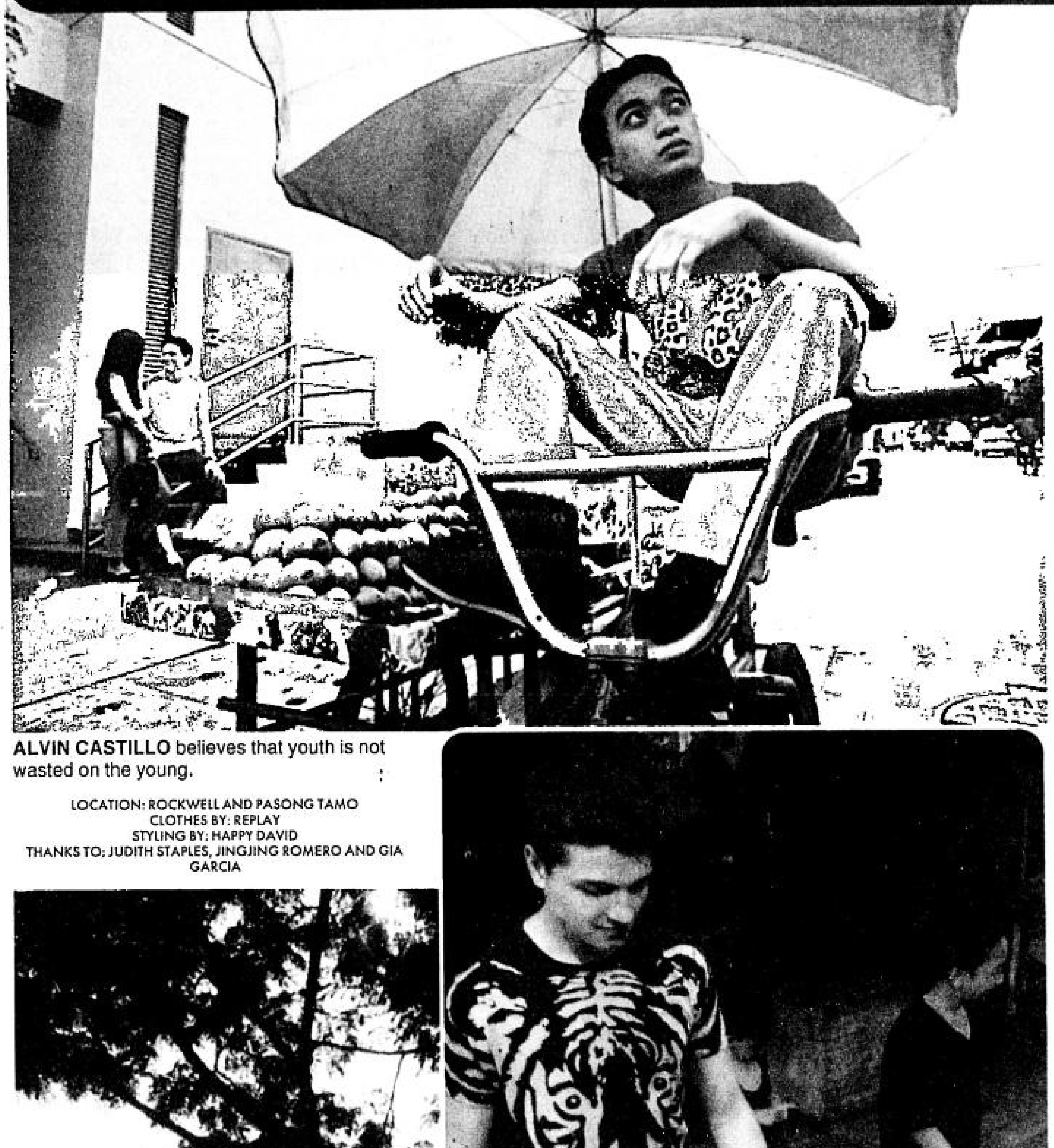


TIMOTHY LIM takes his turn at *taho*-selling.



ALVIN CASTILLO believes that youth is not wasted on the young.

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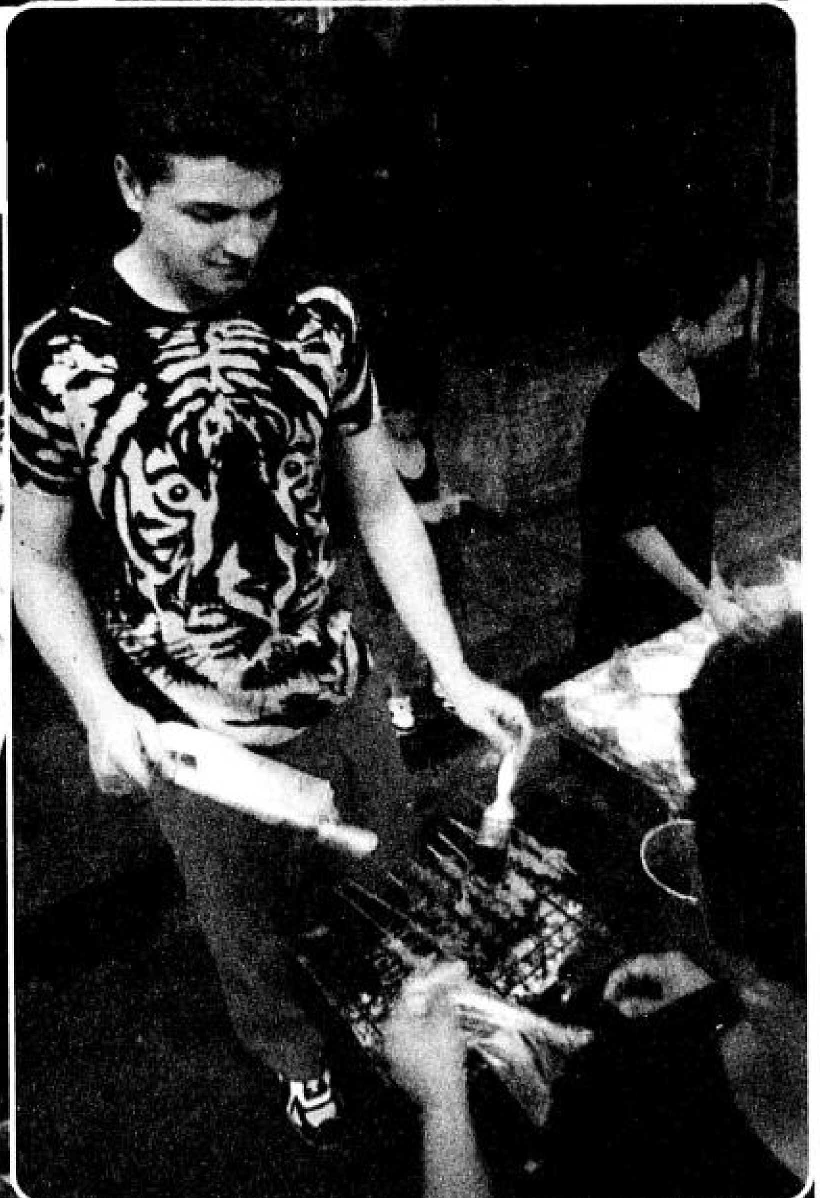

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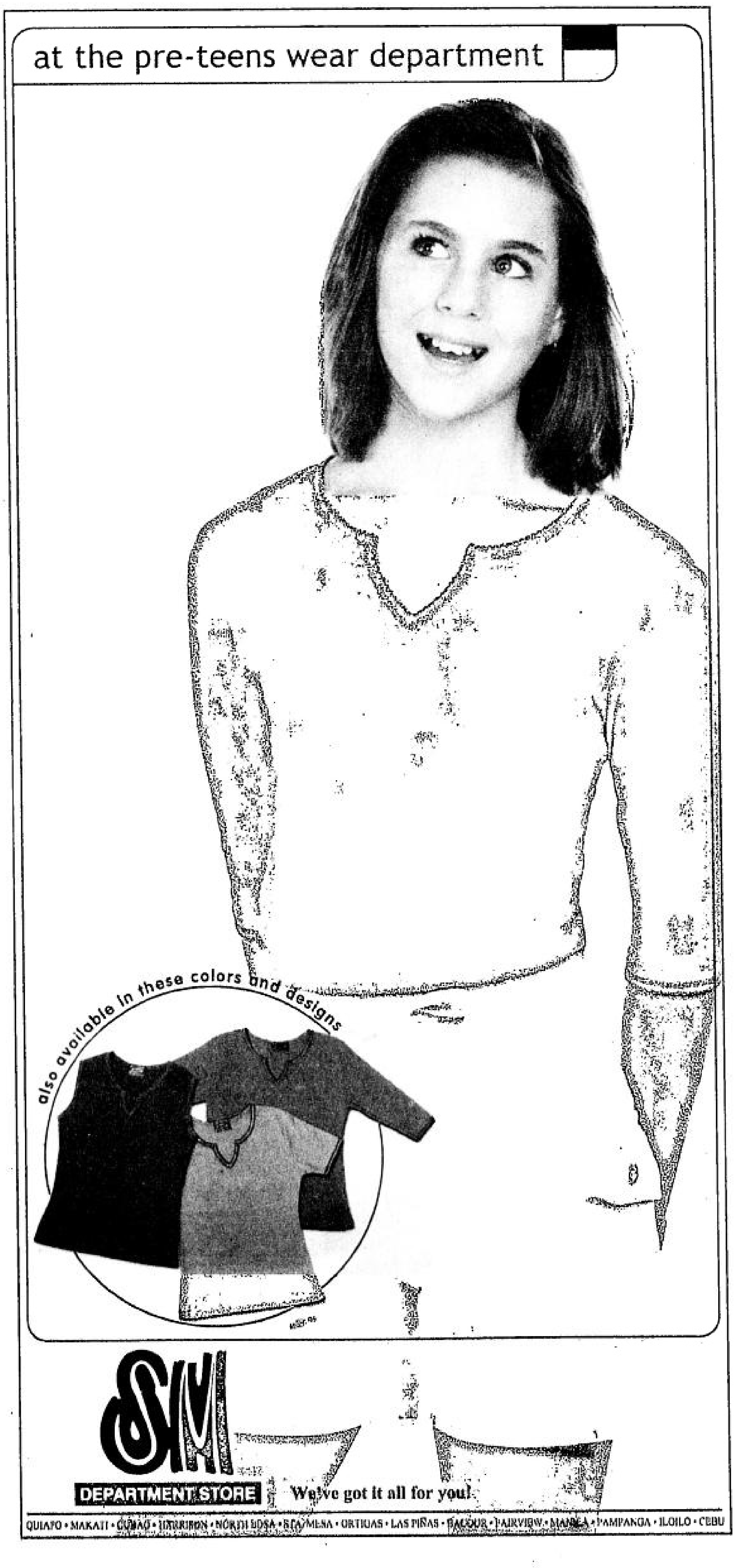

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Make billions the easy way

By Gmeleen Faye B. Tomboc
2bU! Correspondent

T-BILLS, stocks and mutual funds may sound like things only billionaires would care about. And what in the world are trust funds? We know that some people make piles of money through these things (just look at the Best World brouhaha), but few realize that someone as young as 18 can invest in such things. And you don't even have to be the child of an *haciendero*. All it takes is P5,000.

> Forget about putting your money in a savings account. There are ways—four, in fact—to make your money grow faster

Stocks

Let's start with the most popular term—stocks. Most people who own stocks make money by receiving quarterly cash payments called dividends. But by far the most exciting way to make money is by trading stocks, especially when you buy them at a low price and sell at a higher price. The stock market is really about buying and selling. Simple, isn't it? The hard part is determining what to buy and what to sell and when.

What you need: While some stocks cost as little as P0.0024, you can't just buy one stock at a time. Stocks have to be bought in bulk or by lot. For example, if Company A's shares sell for P5.10 each, you have to buy or sell 1,000 shares at a time. You need at least P5,000 to start.

How: Although trading at the Philippine Stock Exchange looks fun, not to mention that you can be seen on TV, only licensed brokers can do the actual trading. To invest in stocks, you need a broker who will do the actual trading for you. You just have to tell him what stocks to buy or sell. But if you would rather leave everything to him, he can make all the buying and selling decisions for you.

What you get: Compared to a savings account, which gives you 2-6 percent interest per year, you can earn this much money in just one day, if you play your cards right. Some people even earn 20 percent in one day alone. So if you put in P5,000, the next day it could be worth P6,000. Keep in mind, though, that there are transaction fees and other taxes.

Tips: Doreen Mijares, an investment officer at IGC Securities Inc., recommends that investors should always be in tune with what's happening. Be aware not only of stocks which will increase in value but of domestic and international political and social events as well. The stock market responds to seemingly unrelated events as bombings in Mindanao, strikes in Laguna and interest rates in faraway United States. And here's the fun part, not only do you earn money but you also learn a lot of things. Stock trading teaches young people to be more analytical of national issues.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Word of caution: For all the stories we hear about some people hitting the jackpot, remember that any chance of hitting it big carries just as great a risk of losing it big time. In other words, do not invest your allowance or the money earmarked for your tuition. Plunk in money that you can live without.

Where to find more info: Log on to www.pse.org.ph for more pointers and a list of licensed brokers. If you simply want to practice your trading skills, there's www.virtualstockexchange.com.

T-bills

If you're the type who'd rather not take any risks, try investing in T-bills. They're basically a promise from the government to pay back your money plus interest. Since the government guarantees that you will be paid, there is practically no chance that you will lose money. But you can only get your money after a specified time period, usually for more than three years, unlike stocks which you can sell any time.

What you need: Recently the government issued what they call Retail Treasury Bonds, which you could buy for a minimum of P5,000 each.

Where to get them: You just can't go to the National Treasury and buy them over the counter. You have to go to banks that the government has authorized to take care of the actual selling. Since the application period for buying Retail Treasury Bonds are over, watch out for the next issue to be announced in major dailies.

What you get: The interest rate of stocks is lower since there's no risks involved. Some T-bills are issued with 10-percent interest, others even higher. In the case of Retail Treasury Bonds, you're guaranteed to get 14.25-percent interest four years from now.

Remember that the longer you wait for your money to be paid back, the more interest you get. In this case, patience is really a virtue.

Get more details from www.treasury.gov.ph or ask your bank what T-bill issues are currently available.

Mutual funds

Ever heard of mutual funds? If you don't want to take the risks of stocks and want a higher return than what T-bills offer, this one's for you.

What you need: P5,000 minimum and P10,000 for some kind of mutual funds

How it works: First, you have to decide what kind of mutual funds you want. Do you want to put your money in stocks, in T-bills, or in both? When you've already selected what kind of mutual funds you want, go to a professional money manager, who will make decisions on which stocks or T-bills to buy and sell. In short, you have to entrust your money to someone else. This is why you have to sit down with him to discuss how much you want to earn and what risks you're willing to take.

What you get: Depends on what type of mutual funds you get. But if you put money in both T-bills and stocks, you get a return similar to what you get from T-bills and stocks alone. You'll earn money if you can sell a fund at a higher price than when you bought it. If you invested P5,000 and your money manager has a keen business sense, your investment would be worth P5,500 after a month. If you sell it you'd earn a profit of P500, which is better than just putting your money in the bank or under your pillow.

But don't get mutual funds if... you want to earn money the quickest way. Prices of mutual funds change. But in the long run, you'd earn more than from any other type of investment. Albert Chua, portfolio manager of AllAsiaCapital, warns that you have to be patient. If you want to earn money for a new cell phone next year then this is not for you. Be prepared to wait for three years or more for your profit.

Tip: Tell your fund manager if you're in for the long run or for just a couple of months. In some cases, Chua says they even tell clients to put the money in a time deposit instead.

Point your browser to www.allasiacapital.com.ph or call your bank if you're interested.

Common trust funds

These are similar to mutual funds because your money is also pooled with other people's money and invested in government securities and the like. Unlike mutual funds, though, wherein you earn money by buying and selling them, common trust funds give you interest on your money. There are also different kinds. For example, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. has a Collective Trust Fund (CTF) where you need to put only P5,000 for a minimum of 30 days. If you want a higher interest rate, you can get another kind of fund called Teach. You give an initial fee of P5,000. Then every month, you have to add P500.

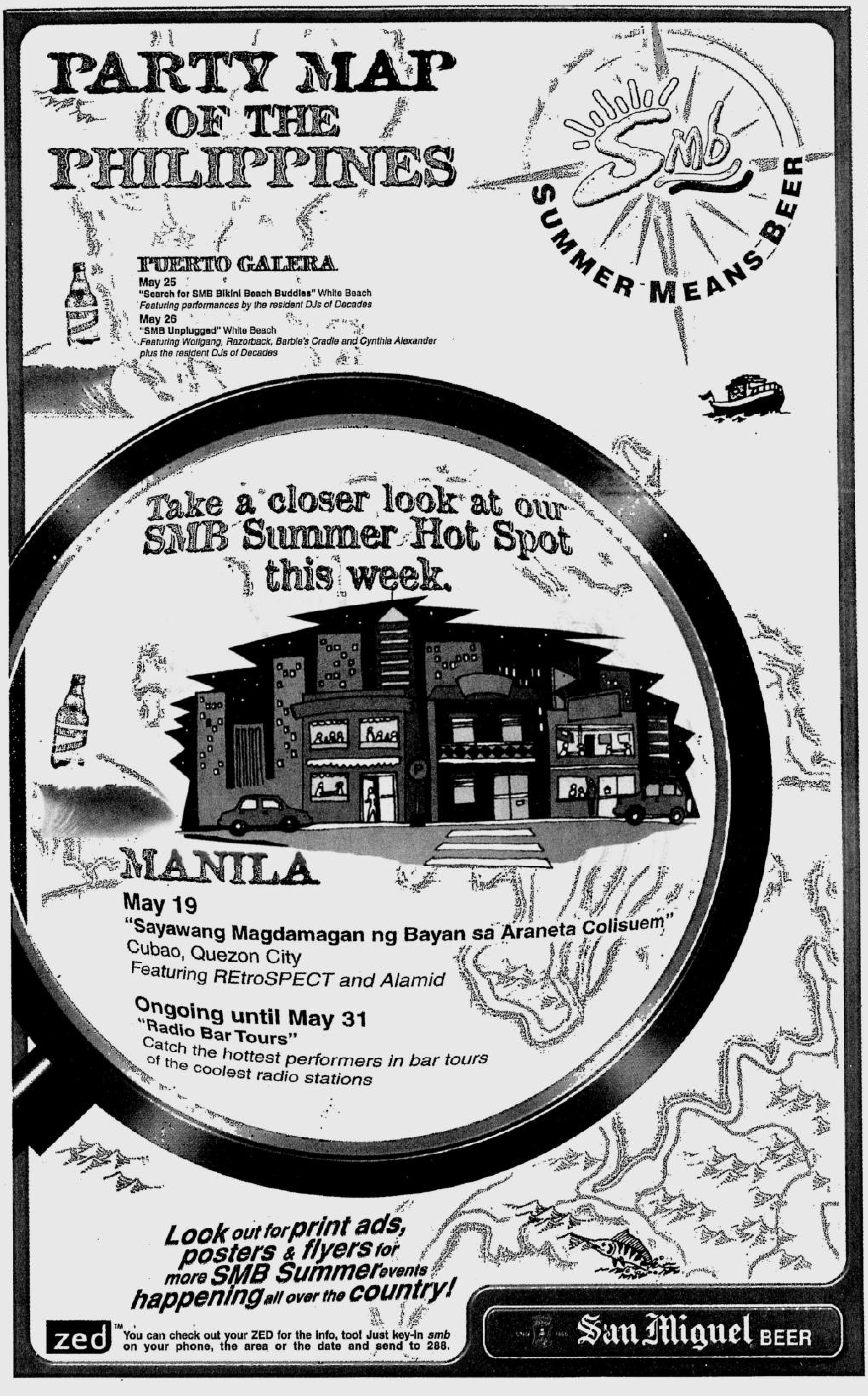
You have to be 18, as is required for most investments, although you can get someone to open an account for you.

What you get: As of now, you can get a 4 percent interest for the CTF and about 8 percent for Teach. Remember though that these interest rates can change, depending on where your money's invested.

How it works: The CTF is like opening a time deposit. You deposit money and they invest it. Then they put whatever interest you earn in your account. But to get your interest, you need to withdraw your whole account or you can simply keep it there to earn higher interest rates. With Teach, you can only get your money and your earnings after two years.

Interested? Ask your bank's Trust Department for more details.

Bear in mind, though, that different banks or brokers have different terms, so be sure to check the fine print first. When you do decide to invest your money, be sure to talk it over carefully with your money manager or bank representative. Don't be scared to talk to these people because they're very helpful and friendly. With a little luck and lots of patience, you can make money the way billionaires do. And you don't even have to be a millionaire at that.



PARTY MAP OF THE PHILIPPINES
SMB SUMMER MEANS BEER
PUERTO GALERA
May 25
"Search for SMB Bikini Beach Buddies" White Beach
Featuring performances by the resident DJs of Decades
May 26
"SMB Unplugged" White Beach
Featuring Wolfgang, Razorback, Barbie's Cradle and Cynthia Alexander plus the resident DJs of Decades
Take a closer look at our SMB Summer Hot Spot this week.
MANILA
May 19
"Sayawang Magdamagan ng Bayan sa Araneta Colisuem"
Cubao, Quezon City
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How TO MAKE A FORTUNE ONLINE

By Pam Pastor

THURSDAY night. Friday's was packed. The place was noisy with the endless chatter of diners and a group of waiters occasionally bursting into a chorus of "Happy Birthday."

They were oblivious to our group, which was seated at one of the smaller tables in a corner. They had no clue I was getting very important information from two experts: How to make money online.

I stared at the two men in front of me. No, they didn't look like your usual Internet-obsessed geeks, but that stereotype has long been forgotten. Freeurmind may exude a little twerpy quality, with his glasses and slicked back hairstyle, but there were no pens in his breast pocket. He was wearing a polo shirt and sneakers.

Bathala was wearing a long-sleeved zip-up hooded sweater. With his curly hair and facial stubble, he looks tough, like he belonged in an action movie, rather than in front of the PC.

But that's what they do. They spend most of their waking hours in front of their computers. Freeurmind, who holds office in his house in Mandaluyong, is almost constantly holed up in his room and is online "60 percent of the time." He uses a 2-year-old PC, a fact that he is proud of.

"You don't need the latest s*** to do high-tech things," he said.

Bathala logs on from his Alabang office at least 10 hours a day. He uses a Pentium 2, 128 Mb, 40 Gb hard drive there, and a Cyrix 233, 32 Mb, 6 Gb hard drive at home. The two are full-time Web developers, although their secrets go beyond that. "Almost everything is legal, some are just morally bad," Bathala said, lest I start thinking they were crooks.

All right. I nodded. He dug for a small piece of paper in his pocket. Crib notes. He was prepared. Thus began our journey into the money-making wonders of the Worldwide Web.

The good

We decided to begin with the squeaky-clean side of making money online and then plunge into the dirt later.

Referral programs. This is very simple. You sign up in one of the sites that offer this service. They will give you an ID. You then download a program and install it in your PC. This program will take up space on your browser. This is where banners will constantly appear. Your job is to click the banners and reach the quota they give you. There's a monthly quota of about 80 clicks.

You get paid depending on your level—this thing is actually similar to the multilevel scams there were years back. If you refer a friend, you'll get a percentage of what your friend is earning. The good thing about it is they send the check straight to your doorstep. One person made $80 in three months.

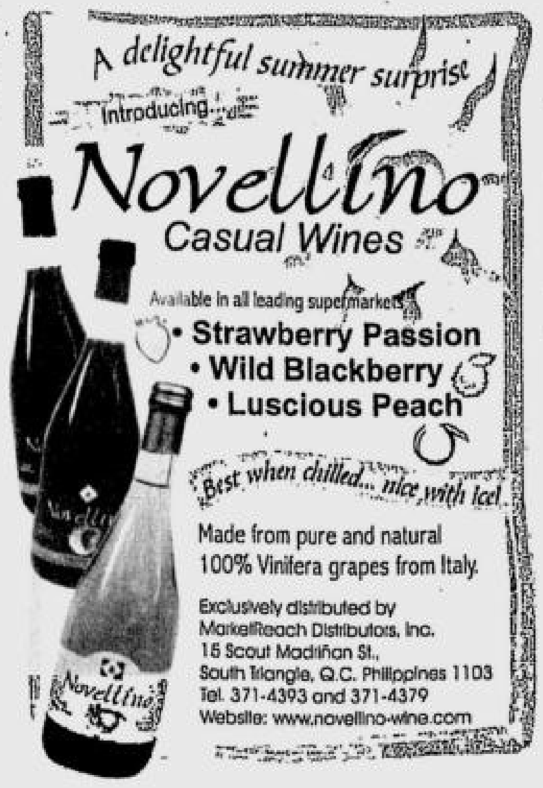
Getpaid4.com was one of the more popular sites that offered this before. But it's now closing down. There are other dotcoms offering similar programs, but they pay less. There are other variations to this program. Some companies pay you to read spam mail. Others pay with online credit. They give you points and you can shop in an online store. Try visiting refer-it.com and cj.com if this interests you.

Click-throughs

"This time, you need your own website, even just a homepage will do," Bathala said, as Freeurmind attacked the mozzarella sticks.

This method is used by online stores. They'll give you a code, you put a banner on your site—your payment depends on how many people click through that banner to get to their store.

HOW/ p.D7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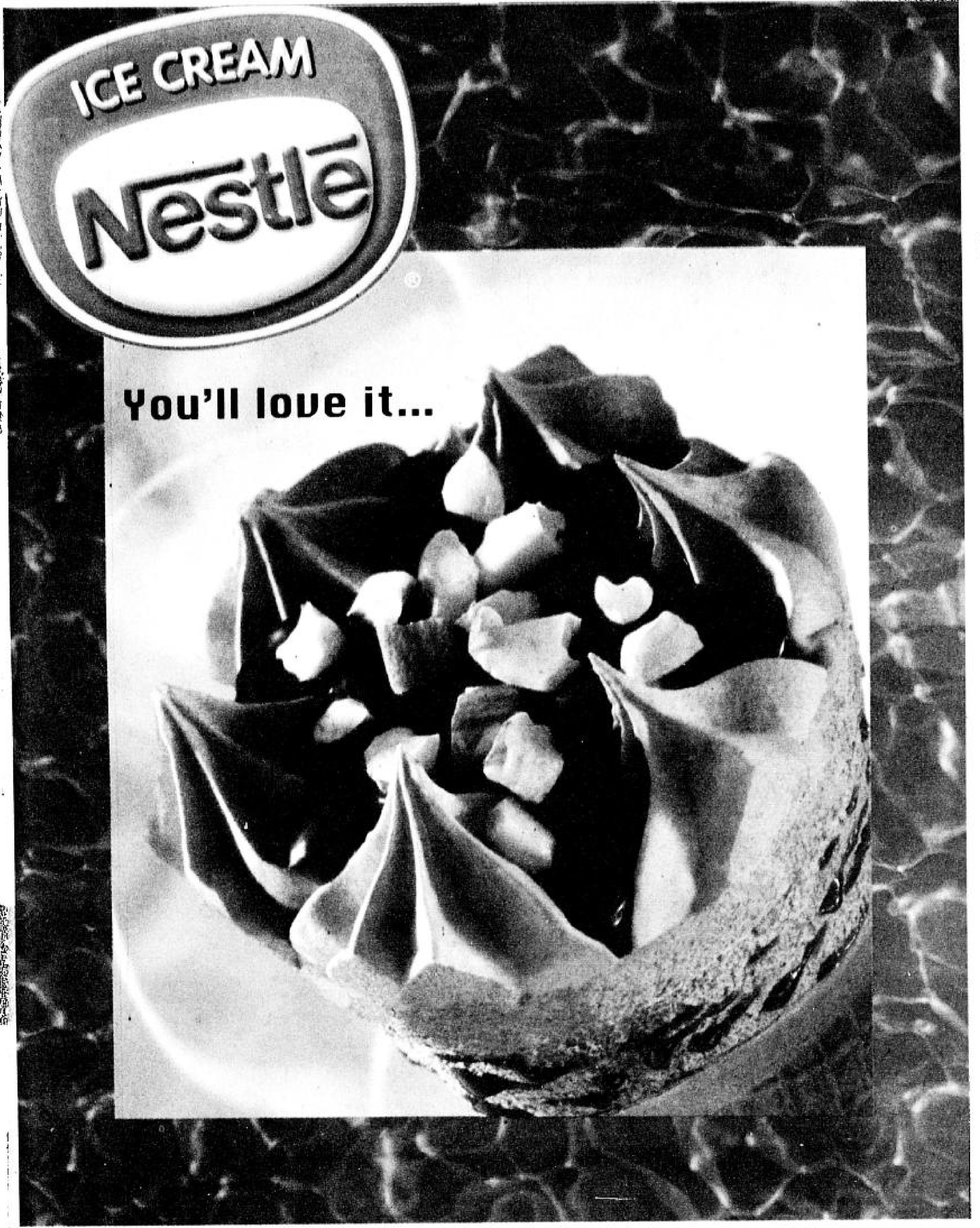

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Sugaring is an alternative to hair waxing

MAKE OVER 911

Kinny Salas

THERE seems to be a shortage of wax for hair removal because none of my usual salons have in stock. I am willing to wait except that my legs are really gross-looking with black curly hair. One parlor, though, is "forcing" me to try this procedure called "sugaring." What's that? If it's the same as waxing as they claim, then why don't they call it waxing instead of sugaring? Should I go for it?

ERLINDA

Yes, it is the same in the sense that the application and removal procedure is identical, but different in the sense that sugaring does not use wax. Instead of hot wax, they use a mixture of lemon juice, sugar and hot water. The mixture is placed on areas with unwanted hair, until it hardens, then is yanked off with cloth strips. If you are a waxing fan, you should definitely try it. Warning: Do not use on sunburned skin and on very coarse hair as the follicles may get inflamed and scarring may occur (as with waxing).

B.O. problem

IT runs in my family. However often and hard we scrub and bathe, B.O. occurs. My brother and I finally found a deodorant that works for us. The problem is my B.O. just beat my trusty deodorant this summer and it no longer works for me. This brand is still working for my brother, though. What happened? This hasn't failed me in three years, why now?

SHODORA

You are not alone. This happens to a lot of people, especially when their personal body chemistry is acidic like yours. The bacteria that causes B.O. developed a new strain that has made it immune to your deodorant. This bacterium thrives especially during summer because of increase in sweat and oil production, which is its ideal breeding ground. Your problem will be solved simply by changing brands. Acidic women shouldn't be shy about using men's deodorant as they are designed to suppress strong B.O. Try one that is designed for active men like Old Spice. I tested it and it withstood a workout session plus three hours before a shower.

Ugly bunions

MY feet have ugly bunions (bony growth beside base of big toe) and I am very self-conscious and try to hide them by not wearing open shoes. Mine are not so big but they are noticeable. My older relatives have deformed feet already because of this. A cousin of mine got an operation seven years ago, but it started growing back after two years (although not as big). Is it worth getting an operation if they will grow back anyway? What shoes can I wear to avoid irritating them?

NENA

If your bunions make you physically uncomfortable and self-conscious, then have them removed. In my opinion, the operation is worth it. What you have to worry about is not irritating them because this will make them grow bigger.

People with bunions are so self-conscious they cover their feet with closed shoes that are sometimes too binding for their feet and therefore rub against the bunions. This makes the bunions bigger or speed up their growth rate. I asked a doctor once what will prevent a bunion from growing back after an operation. He said, "Don't wear shoes!" That was in the '80s when shoes were stilletos, narrow, closed and pointy-toed.

You're lucky that the shoes in fashion now are open and comfortable. Take advantage of those jeweled thong styles with or without heels. Do not bind that area with bunions even with sandal straps that cross that area. Invest in closed shoes that are made for wide feet. If your bunions mark, drop the shoe. Choose well.

For any questions, or products you want to road-test, write to Makeover 911, PDI Lifestyle or fax at 897-4805

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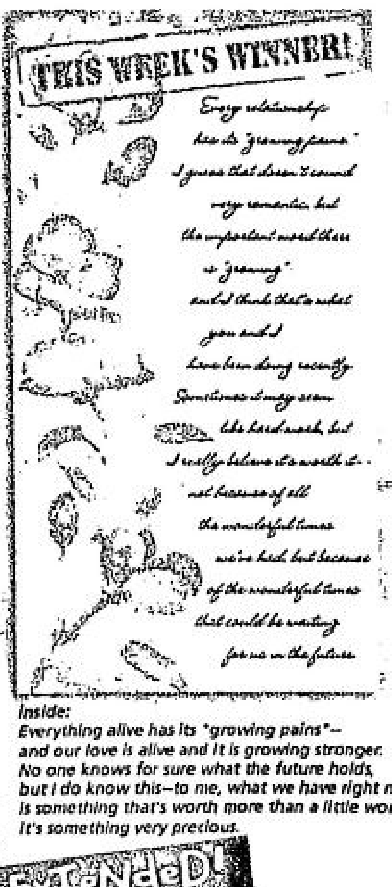
Lifestyle Teen Section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer

The Between You and Me "Cardspeak" Contest!

THIS WEEK'S WINNER!



Every relationship
has its "growing pains."
I guess that doesn't sound
very romantic, but
the important word there
is "growing."
and I think that's what
you and I
have been doing recently.
Sometimes it may seem
like hard work, but
I really believe it's worth it...
not because of all
the wonderful times
we've had, but because
of the wonderful times
that could be waiting
for us in the future.

Inside:
Everything alive has its "growing pains"–
and our love is alive and it is growing stronger.
No one knows for sure what the future holds,
but I do know this–to me, what we have right now
is something that's worth more than a little work,
it's something very precious.

I always give my girlfriend, Minnie, flowers to show how much I love her. She, on the other hand, gives me cards (specifically Hallmark cards) to let me feel her love. But among all the cards she has given me, I love this particular **Between You and Me** card the most.

Minnie gave me this card at that point when we were facing the challenges and realities of our relationship. I love the message because it speaks the truth– that every relationship has its "growing pains". This card reminds us that being in one is not as easy as we may think. It requires a strong commitment and a sense of responsibility from each partners. Each one should do his/her part to make it work. And to me, the most important thing to consider is putting God first and making Him the center of the relationship. Only then will everything be all right.

I really love every card Minnie has given me and I like reading them again and again. Until now, I keep all her notes, love letters and especially the cards in a box. I keep them not as a collection but as treasures that I would cherish forever.

Sometimes there are words and feelings that I find hard to say and express, things that are not easy to explain and thoughts that are difficult to put down in writing. But **Between You and Me** cards always help me express them better.

- Delfin A. Flores, Jr.
965-C San Vicente St.,
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EXTENDED!

Because you asked for it, we're extending *Hallmark's Between You & Me "Cardspeak"* Contest! Send us the most memorable Between You & Me card you received and tell us why it's "sent" in 300 words or less. If your entry is chosen, your story will be printed in this section of *2bU!*. And if that's not enough, you also got to win two cool *Swatch* watches! (That's one for you and one for the person who sent you the card). Mail your entries to: *Filstar Distributors Corporation 3/F Team Pacific Bldg. 13 Jose Cruz St., Ugong, Pasig City 1604*. Include your name, address & contact number. Contest ends June 13, 2001. So keep 'em coming! Catch *Joe D'Mango's Love Notes* every Friday (10:00 am) at *WAVE 89.1* as he reads your favorite Between You & Me cards and every Sunday in the Inquirer's Lifestyle section.

www.hallmark.com

Congrats, Delfin!
You and Minnie won this!

IBIZA party animal out on the street of Nakpil

BRIT brat tipsily tralpses Maria Orosa.

HER BENCH. Amanda Griffin with Paolo Araneta

BOSOM buddies Ish Montilla and Jose Campos chilling out

WHEN you know... Tony Valdez

Serve hot or cold

Tim Yap

"WHAT'S happening tonight?" is a very common text message I receive from inquiring partyphiles getting ready for a night out. However, I didn't quite expect to get it from somebody like **EJ Litton**, what with his full schedule and nightly trysts.

Ever since Stars closed its doors, EJ has been on an unexpected yet much needed break. People on the scene wonder why, despite its packed parties, established market niche and publicity hype, it wasn't making money.

"The overhead was simply too much," declared EJ, who is preoccupied with preparations for Dish (his latest project opening this June at Rockwell's Power Plant), when asked about the matter. "The night's revenue was not enough to keep it on the positive. Admittedly we started on the wrong foot, so despite doing pretty well, we had to pay for past losses every month."

What is going to happen to the space Stars (after countless Zodiac parties, starlet catfights and all) used to occupy? The owners are planning to open a bistro, where **Peter Jentes** of Schwarzwalder will handle staff training and the place's conceptualization.

"The night life scene is very fickle. You are hot one day and cold the next." Yet in the short span of Stars' shiny existence, it made Manila's nightscape flicker even brighter.

The end?

SAMBO'S, after a year and a half of reigning over the Laureano compound with raves and foam parties, has ceased operations. "We were doing all right, but it became too much of a business. It became taxing," says a partner. In the Intramuros circuit, Mas Y Mas has changed management, but is still open Wednesday to Saturday. In Malate, several establishments are reportedly for sale.

It seems the scene is on hibernate mode.

So, what's really happening? Is this the death of the city's nocturnal shelf life? Unenlightened aging sectors say that the Manila social nightscape is now limited to "the battle of high-tech cinemas." Others claim that the scene over here sucks.

I think otherwise, and feel that the nocturnal arena is on a transition stage. Malate, Makati Alabang and Ortigas are now actually creating their individual niches. It's not quite obvious, but there is growth. While it is true that a lot of places are closing its doors, a few good ones are opening as well.

Take the Libis area, for example. One slow Saturday night in Makati, we decided to hop by the Acropolis party circuit. We dropped by Po Na Na! (Owners say it's a Mediterranean term which means "Celebrate life!") where we partied the whole night and were pleasantly surprised to find triple parking on its streets, great looking interiors, good food and fab company!

Spots such as Pier 1, Twilo and Cactus have a huge following, too. Some are opening branches at the Fort and Malate. Check them out.

Tripping out

SPEAKING of Malate, Chivas Regal spiced up its spirits once more by bringing five music capitals to its party streets. The Nakpil and Orosa strip played witness to this grand evening of touring Ibiza, New Orleans, London, Vienna and Jamaica with "The Chivas When You Know Music Trip Out" party.

Classical music by the Neo Classical Ensemble and candelabras filled Nakpil, Polyesyter performed Brit pop, Brownman Revival did Jamaican reggae, and Brownbeat All Stars brought the house down with jazz from New Orleans. A diverse dose of DJs dominated the bars and clubs in the area.

A hip highlight was the foam party in the street's center, which was stopped unceremoniously way past midnight by the police, claiming the neighborhood was complaining about the noise?! Hello! On Nakpil?!

Nevertheless, it was Malate's biggest party ever, according to true-blue Malatephile **Markus Schmidt**, owner of Firma.

Partyphiles can win CDs, high-tech audio equipment and a trip to any of the abovementioned music destinations of the world by drinking (what else?) smooth and savvy Chivas.

Wild on!

WHAT were the past few weeks' happenings? Chill out intimate gatherings (natal day parties of MYX veejay **Ed Feist** at H&H young exec **Fritz Puyat** at his Dasma residence and "pink chic" fete of dandy man **Patrick Reyno** at the Romulo Room of Prince Albert) aside, **Cecille Ysmael** (better known as the woman who "tamed" nightlife royalty **Louie Y**) threw a "Wild On @ Venezia!" party.

True to its title, the private party had a black curtain outside Venezia's doors, if only to conceal the night's intimate activities. Frolicking naked men and women from uncut episodes of E! Channel files flashed on the screens of the "wet and wild" venue. Partyphiles went up the main bar to dance, lick shoot and suck each other with tequila shots.

Venezia as a party place all of a sudden became an oral and aural experience. Deep Throat drinks were served early in the evening. After shirts and blouses were stripped off late night, chests, backs and much more were exposed, I decided to do a French exit and a chilled-out night cap with friends.

Sexual tension and alco-pops aside, we chit chatted till sunrise, letting the good vibe that each exuded take over the inevitable negativity that is sometimes rampant in our environment. The success and growth of the city's nightlife depends not on the parties or places but on you.

So, what's happening tonight?

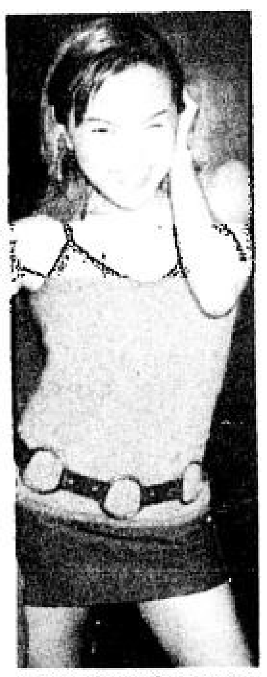
STARS may fade, but EJ Litton prepares new Dish. Watch out.

MARDI GRAS in Malate! Why not? New Orleans, courtesy of Chivas Regal

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

"**LOUIE,** rescue me..." says "Wild On @ Venezia" party organizer Cecille Ysmael.

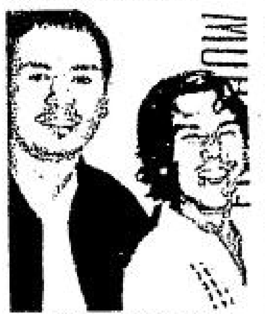
ORAL treat for Malatephiles Miko Valenzuela, Colin Mackay and Markus Schmidt



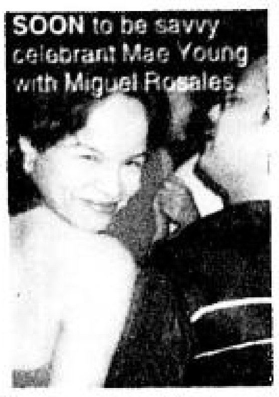
HOTLEGS' Georcelle does a Kylie.

BUDDING bonding with Patrick Reyno and Vic Bernardo

FUN CHUMS. Raffy Ladao and Boompy Martel at Fritz's bash

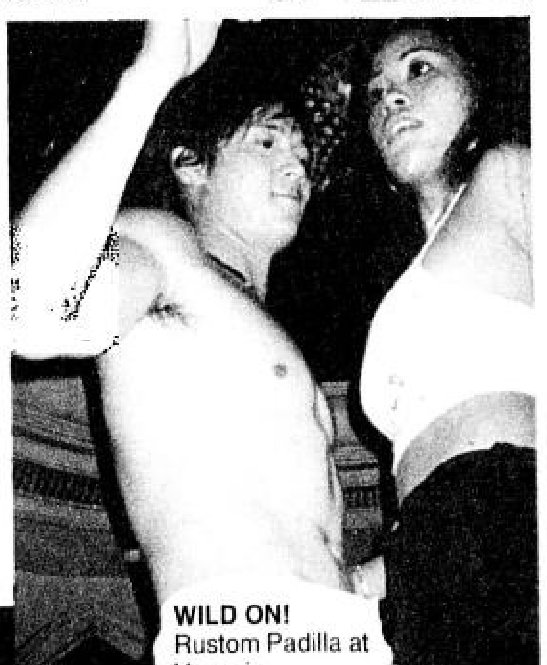


REGAL babies Alan Harrow and Erich Edralin

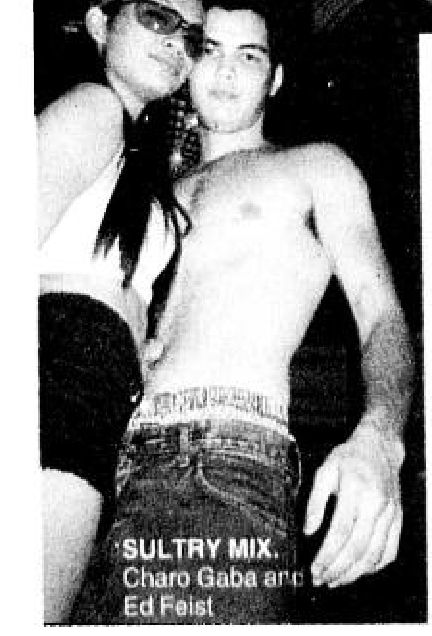


SOON to be savvy celebrant Mae Young with Miguel Rosales

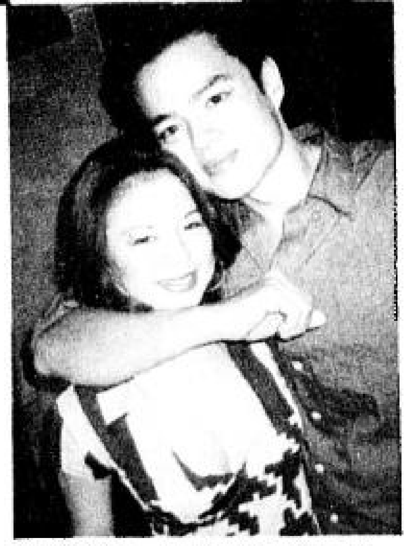
VAMPY Viennese opera star shines, literally.



WILD ON! Rustom Padilla at Venezia



SULTRY MIX. Charo Gaba and Ed Feist



SIBLING revelry for Wendy and birthday celebrant Fritz Puyat

...down to the very end.
A new, totally satisfying experience awaits you, from the Drumstick you've always loved.
with 3 New Flavors!
ICE CREAM
Nestlé
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Welcome to the 2bU! family

A COUPLE of weeks back, we were overwhelmed by the number of people who responded to the ad we put out for 2bU! correspondents. The PDI second floor lobby and pantry were jam-packed with people—and more continued to come after the screening started.

Below is the list of individuals who made the cut—they're young, they're vibrant and they want to be heard.

Congratulations to the new 2bU! correspondents.

Andrea Aguirre
Lloyd Andrew Alomarde
Anna Rosa Elicaño
Mervin Joseph Espina
Bunny Gapit
Maria Celeste Gomez
Quark Henares
Julie Anne Hudtohan
Christine May Icamina
Angela Ignacio
Maria Christina Lacaba
Gino Ledesma
Ronald Lester Leyva
Melissa Anne Lim
Aileen J. Lopez
Sheryll Lopez
Veronica de Luna
Raya Perfecto Martin
Roan Belle Ng
Ivy Papa
Jasmine Payo
Michelle Pino
Charlemagne Pobre
Saleema Devi Refran
Milan Rustia
Niño Mark M. Sablan
Kent Saga
Mary Mariel Singson
Lisa M. Sobreviñas
Jeovert Lesmes Solanoy
Leslie Ann Tan
Margot Aissa Tan
Maureen Tañedo
Melissa Anne M. Telan
Alexis Tioseco
Mariless V. Villamar
Anne Luisa Villarico
Edwin Valdez Vinarao
Catherine Young

We will have our first meeting on May 26, 3 p.m., at the PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets.

If you didn't make it to this batch, don't be disheartened. Watch out for the next screening of 2bU! correspondents.

Join Meg's circle of fashion icons

THIS summer, Meg magazine invites young model wannabes to be part of the season's hottest search for runway stars.

If you are male or female, 13-22 years old, in high school or college levels, with ravishing good looks, a captivating personality and a dream to be a fashion icon, then join the Meg & Fwd Circle of 20. Meg and Fwd will train young runway stars in a modeling workshop that will gear them up for success in the fashion world.

Do actual print and ramp modeling. Learn to mix and match clothes. Learn beauty and grooming tricks. Develop your personality. Get in touch with the country's top modeling agencies. What's more, all Meg & Fwd Circle of 20 members become regular models of Meg and Fwd magazines (and in all the magazines' parties and fashion shows, too).

Application fee for the week-long Meg & Fwd Circle of 20 workshop is P100. Deadline for application for the second batch is on May 18. Join the Meg & Fwd Circle of 20 now. Call Kit Nocom or Abe David at 631-2859 local 18, 16 or 24.

Chances are, you've never seen anything quite like Kidsgrove.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. AII-122 Series of 2001.

Jeans pioneer goes online

JEANS pioneer Levi's has signed up with Edsamail to advertise its products, the first time in the Philippines it is embarking on an Internet advertising strategy.

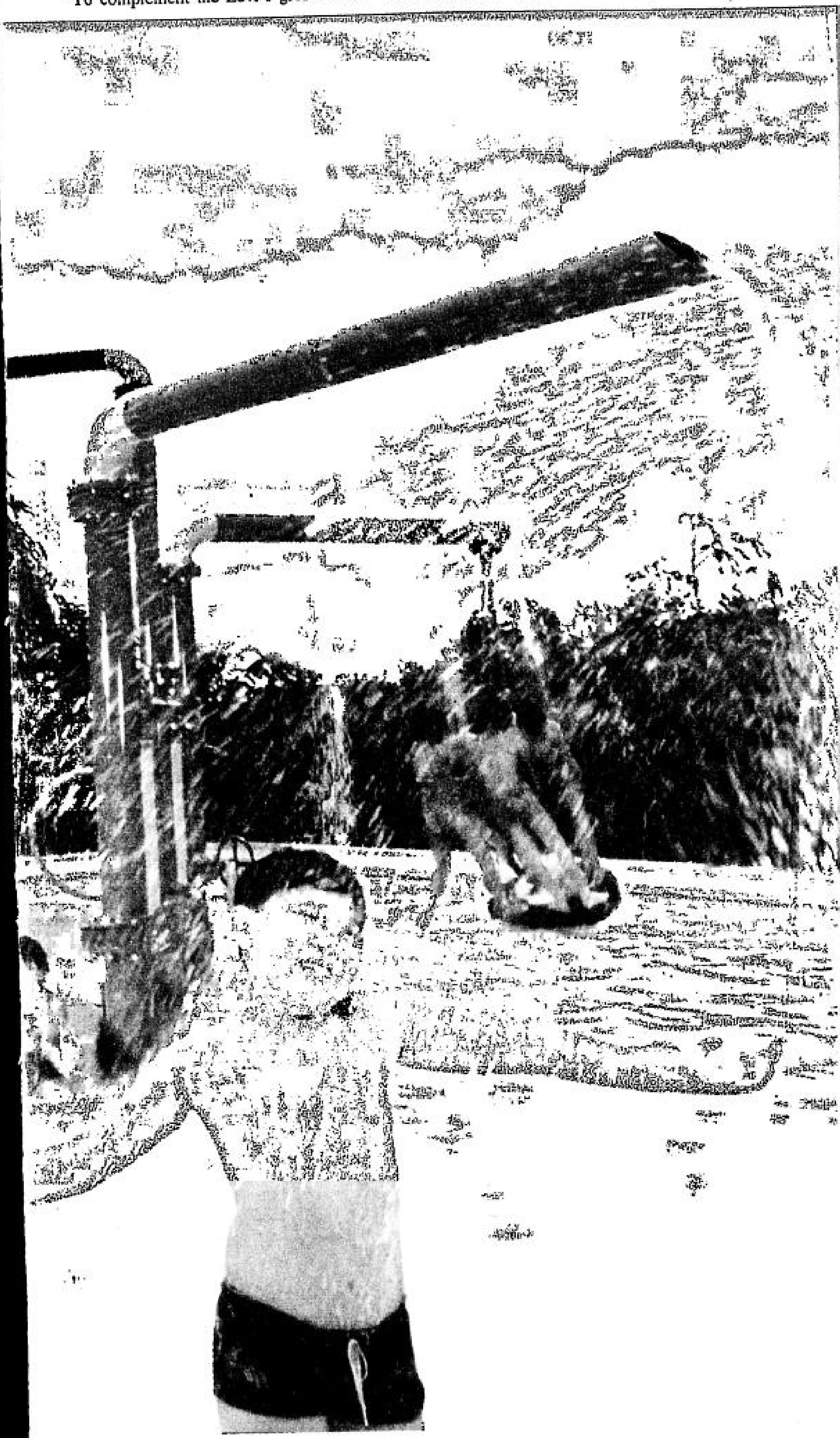
"To complement the Levi's global website, levi.com, we have decided to advertise on Edsamail because of its large base of subscribers. We believe that we will be able to reach our target market of hip, young and cool customers with this initiative," Steve Romasanta, Levi's brand leader, said.

Levi's will feature on Edsamail its three newest product lines: Levi's Engineered Jeans, Levi's 501 Jeans with Cool Max and Levi's Super Low Jeans for Girls.

Since its launch, Levi's Engineered Jeans has been making waves because of its innovative use of Cotton Tencel fabric in its twisted side seams and slanted back pockets.

Levi's 501 jeans with Cool Max takes its name from the Dupont material, which allows the skin to breathe more easily through the fabric. It's the first time Levi's is giving the original Levi's 501 jeans a makeover.

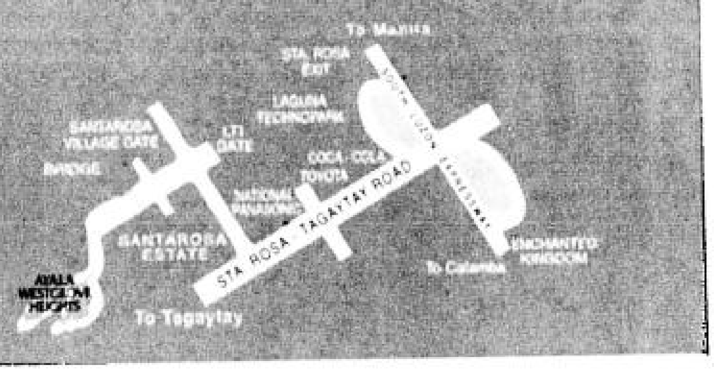
Levi's Super Low is cut for women who want sexier and trendier jeans that can be worn every day.



AYALA WESTGROVE HEIGHTS
AN AYALA SOUTH COMMUNITY

In the newest phase of **Ayala Westgrove Heights** is an in-subdivision child-centric zone unlike any other, **Kidsgrove**. Generously spread out over a 1.8-hectare area of land that varies in depth, making for an interesting hilly terrain. And now you can see it taking shape, with the completion of the swimming pool and an interactive wet play area, a totally new concept in neighborhood fun. That's just the beginning, of course. Soon, you'll also see the multi-purpose rink, boardwalks, a junior basketball court, a fishing pond, and much more. Imagine living in a subdivision where your kids can enjoy an eye-popping range of fun facilities while staying close to home. Come over for a visit, and while you're here, feel free to ask about our new easy-on-the-budget financing schemes. Because choosing **Ayala Westgrove Heights** might just be one of the best things you can do for your family.

Say aloha at Ayala Westgrove Heights. Come to the Kidsgrove Luau in your best Hawaiian outfits for some summer fun the kids will never forget. Start off with a Sunday mass at 9:00 am, then join our hula hoops, limbo rock and water games. Take part in the Hawaiian fun dance and watch our kiddie summer fashion show.



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This month in Seventeen

THIS month's issue of Seventeen is all about makeovers, being better inside and out with tips on looking good and feeling great.

Seventeen shares 30 ways you can reinvent yourself, like getting up an hour earlier, doing three good deeds a day or treating Mom and Dad to a movie for a change. You'll be surprised to know that a little effort goes a long way.

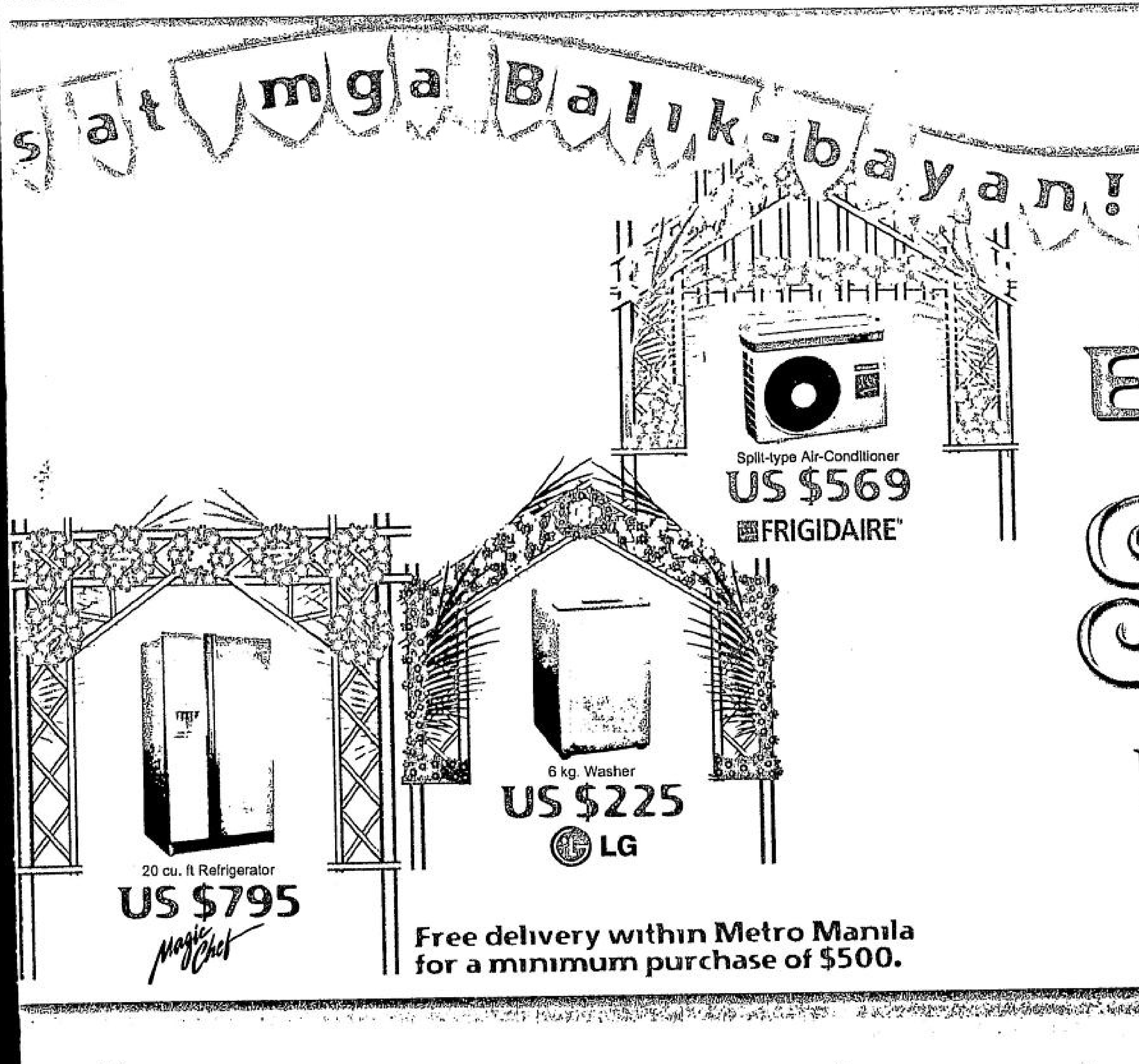
Seventeen gives four lucky college girls the makeover of their dreams with the help of L'Oréal and the hair pros of Piandre Salon. Check them out and be inspired to get a new 'do. Look even better with five spot-specific workouts that will tone your abs, arms and buns. Suit up this summer with 45 of the best and most flattering bikinis, tankinis, tops and sundresses.

Seventeen Phils. features Hollywood's newest sweetheart, Julia Stiles. The star of "10 Things I Hate About You" and "Down to You" shares her secrets about life, love and everything in between. Julia has become a familiar face with a formidable presence on screen. She talks about the making of her current movie, "Save the Last Dance," and the rigorous training she went through to play the role of an aspiring ballerina and hip-hop dancer. Know more about this rising star as Seventeen gives you a backstage pass into her world.

The May issue of Seventeen delves into the dark and dangerous world of drugs. Find out how easy it is for teens to get hooked. According to Jopie Nolasco, a psychology professor at the Ateneo de Manila University, "It's really at the adolescent stage when peer pressure is strong. At this stage, values aren't set yet. Curiosity and the need to belong are usually the reasons teenagers try drugs." Get vital information on the harmful effects of marijuana, mesh, acid, ketamine, Ecstasy and cocaine. Seventeen gives you the real deal on drugs because what you don't know can kill you.

Seventeen Phils. joins Plus One on the set of their hot new video, "Here in My Heart." Editor in chief Maya Calica flew to Singapore to spend the day with Jason, Jeremy, Nathan, Gabe and Nate. Know more about these gorgeous guys as Maya shares her most memorable day.

gift ideas for Mom
Seventeen
MAKE OVER YOUR LIFE!
45+
BAD TRIP what drugs really do
julia stiles
be seen in seventeen!



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Fiestamall Electronics de Mayo

Tuloy-tuloy ang pagdating ng mga bagong produkto hanggang July 31!

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Free delivery within Metro Manila for a minimum purchase of $500.

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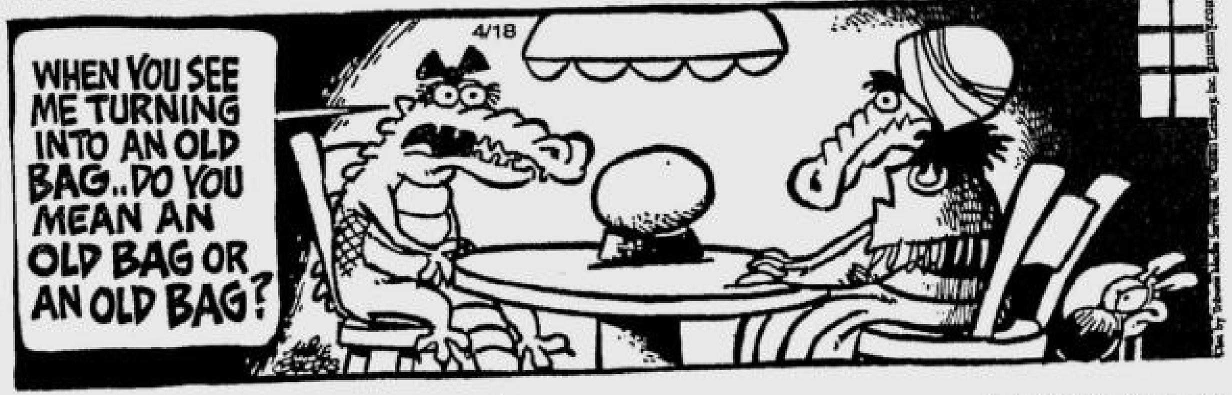
COMIC Relief

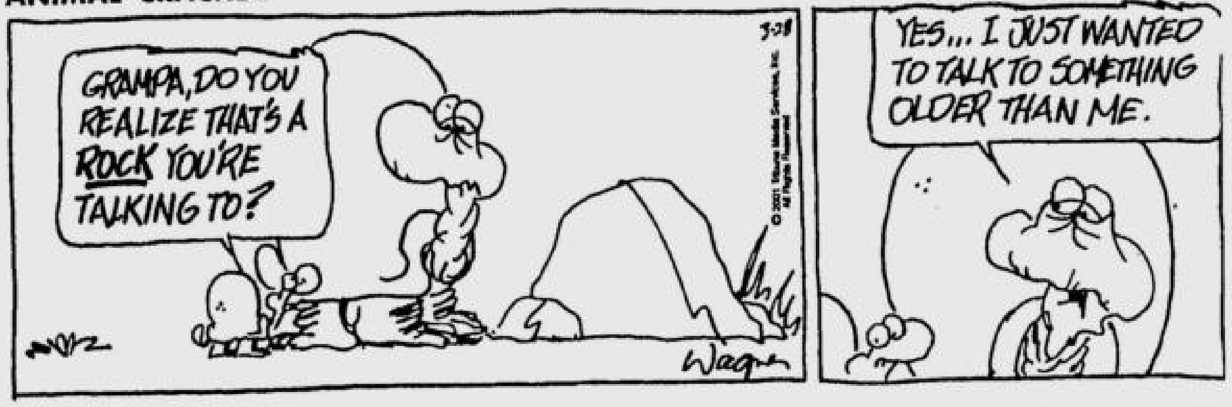
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


WHEN YOU SEE ME TURNING INTO AN OLD BAG.. DO YOU MEAN AN OLD BAG OR AN OLD BAG?
4/18

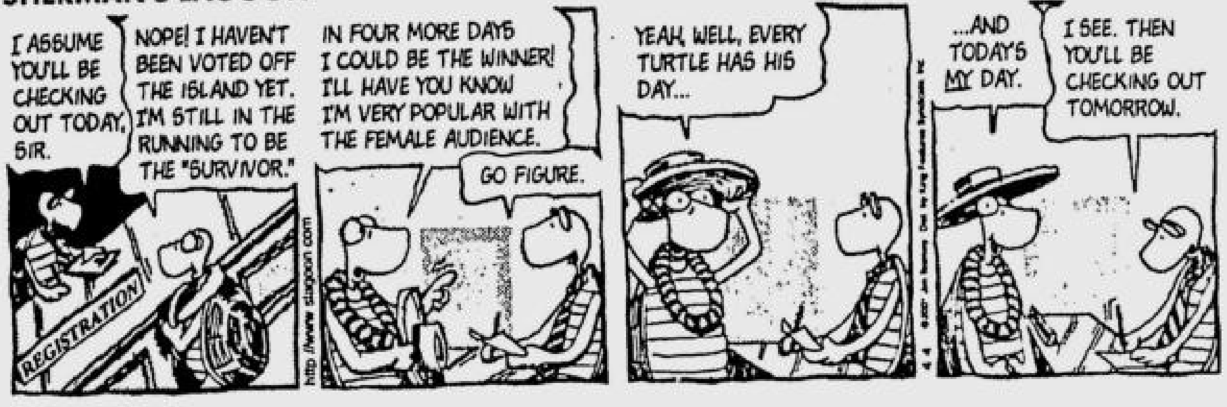
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


GRAMPA, DO YOU REALIZE THAT'S A ROCK YOU'RE TALKING TO?
YES... I JUST WANTED TO TALK TO SOMETHING OLDER THAN ME.
3-28
Wagner

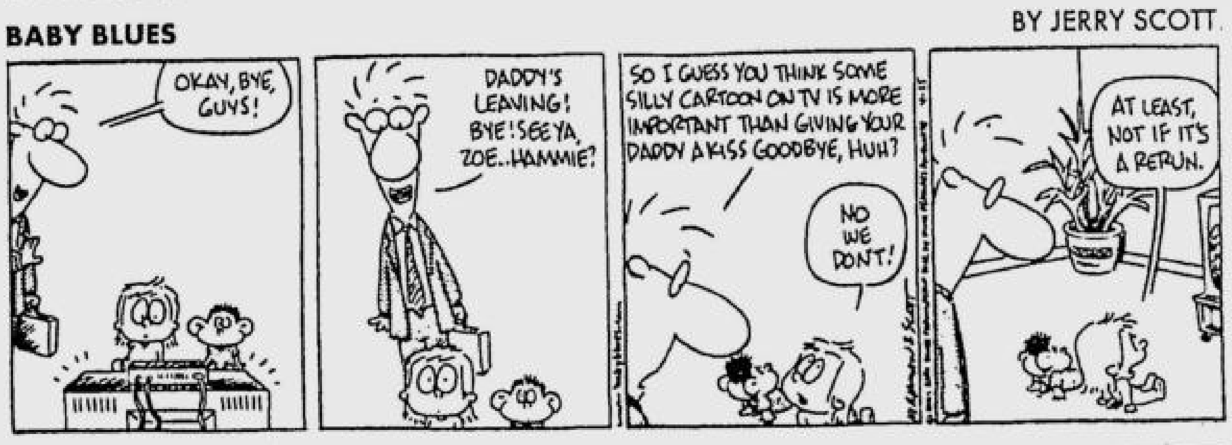
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


I ASSUME YOU'LL BE CHECKING OUT TODAY, SIR.
NOPE! I HAVEN'T BEEN VOTED OFF THE ISLAND YET. I'M STILL IN THE RUNNING TO BE THE "SURVIVOR."
REGISTRATION
IN FOUR MORE DAYS I COULD BE THE WINNER! I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW I'M VERY POPULAR WITH THE FEMALE AUDIENCE.
GO FIGURE.
YEAH, WELL, EVERY TURTLE HAS HIS DAY...
...AND TODAY'S MY DAY.
I SEE. THEN YOU'LL BE CHECKING OUT TOMORROW.
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


OKAY, BYE, GUYS!
DADDY'S LEAVING! BYE! SEE YA, ZOE..HAMMIE?
SO I GUESS YOU THINK SOME SILLY CARTOON ON TV IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN GIVING YOUR DADDY A KISS GOODBYE, HUH?
NO WE DON'T!
AT LEAST, NOT IF IT'S A RERUN.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Henry Fonda, Tori Spelling, Gabriela Sabatini, Janet Jackson, David Boreanaz, Tracey Gold, Omar Epps, Mare Winningham

Happy Birthday: Open your eyes and discover what the world has to offer. This can be a great year, so don't hold yourself back or think that your glass is half empty. If you are positive, you will get the results you are looking for. If you are negative and uncooperative, you can expect to fall short of your expectations. Your numbers: 6, 17, 28, 29, 32, 34

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't let your passion take over and lead you astray. Secret affairs may be intriguing, but they will be hurtful in the long run. Don't fool yourself. Self-deception is evident.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Watch out for fast-talkers who want you to invest in something. Risks will end in loss. It is wiser to leave your money in a safe place. Concentrate on your personal relations.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will have major blow-ups with someone you love if you don't back down. You should focus your attention on moneymaking matters and stay away from emotional melodramas.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will meet compatible prospective mates if you join in recreational activities. Don't take the chance of ruining your present relationship for the wrong reason. Take a serious look at your situation.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Property investments appear to be prosperous. Drive around and check out some of the possibilities. If you add a few extras to your own residence, you'll raise its value.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Partnerships will be emotional. New relationships can begin suddenly, but be cautious if you don't know their past.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Put some effort into your professional direction. Don't shy away from socializing with clients or colleagues. You need to let others get to know you better. Your mate will be eager to please you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Get together with clients or colleagues for a break after work. You can make allies if you discuss your grievances. Don't lend money or possessions to a friend. You won't get it back.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Start contemplating the long-term advantages of settling into domestically. Property investments will pay off.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You need to get away with your lover. Help family members with their immediate problems by offering your time. Friendships with foreigners will be an informative experience.

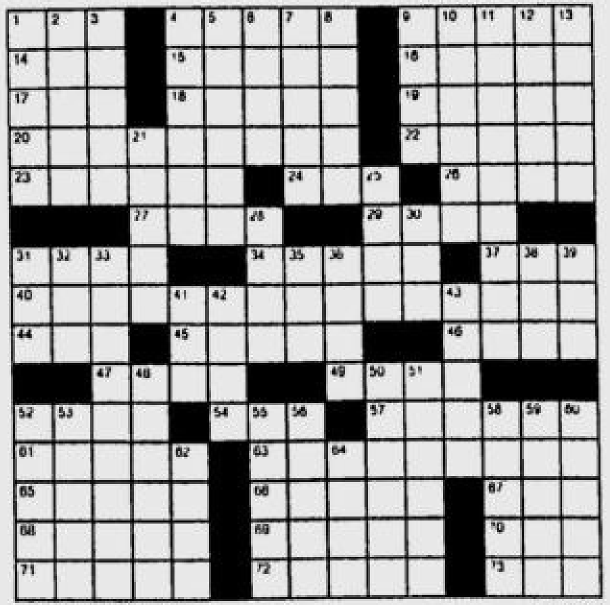
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Home-improvement projects will run smoothly. Include friends and family members in your redecorating plans. Help others solve their personal dilemmas. You'll gain respect if you do.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't let your emotions get the better of you. Your sensitive nature will make you tearful if you haven't seen the ones you love for some time.

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, emotional and extremely intuitive. Your ability to help others will not go unnoticed. You are a giver and a doer, especially when it comes to loved ones and those who are underprivileged.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com


1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73

By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

3/30/01

ACROSS
1 Prohibit
4 Vertical
9 Retrieve
14 Shad delicacy
15 Absolutely not!
16 Harden
17 Circle part
18 Steps over a fence
19 Farm measure
20 Start of Evan Esar quote
22 Part 2 of quote
23 Colorful perch
24 Compass pt.
26 Viewpoint
27 Being: Lat.
29 Iowa State location
31 Ditto
34 Authority to decide
37 Koppel or Kennedy
40 Part 3 of quote
44 Craving
45 Saudi currency
46 All over again
47 Fiery birthstone
49 Attention getter
52 Greatly
54 Dry, as wine
57 One with two cents to put in
61 Part 4 of quote
63 End of quote
65 Cliff-base pile of rocks
66 Employer
67 Helping hand
68 Slovenly persons
69 Middle East bigwigs
70 Arctic surface
71 Okays
72 "Touched by an Angel" star
73 Pole with a blade

DOWN
1 Interwoven locks
2 Principal artery
3 Come up, again
4 Takes place, subsequently
5 Makes roof repairs
6 Wickedness
7 Monks' rooms
8 Deuce toppers
9 Exploit
10 Containerize
11 Historic Asian region
12 Doctrine
13 Wiesbaden's state
21 Much inclined
25 Right on maps
28 Catch sight of
30 Lea low
31 Porky's pen
32 Reverence
33 Unicorn constellation
35 Chicken/king connector
36 Shriek
38 Barely manage
39 Morning moisture
41 Important time
42 Canvas colors?
43 Morning in Metz
48 Artemis
50 Actress Suzanne
51 Lightly populated
52 Lichen-covered
53 Male relative
55 Knockout gas
56 Ring the time
58 Marsh of mysteries
59 Writer Jong
60 "The Flying Dutchman" painter
62 Actor Parker
64 Cleveland's lake

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

P	O	U	T		D	R	A	F	T		D	E	N	S
U	R	G	E		R	E	V	U	E		E	V	I	L
F	A	L	L	S	O	N	O	N	E	S	F	A	C	E
F	L	Y		K	N	E	W			W	A	D	E	D
			V	I	E	W		P	R	I	M	E	R	S
R	O	B	O	T	S		G	R	A	V	E			
O	P	A	L			S	E	I	Z	E		L	S	U
D	U	S	T	S	O	N	E	S	E	L	F	O	F	F
E	S	S		C	H	A	S	M			L	I	P	O
			G	R	I	P	E		M	O	U	N	D	S
S	T	E	R	E	O	S		C	O	D	E			
A	R	R	O	W			L	A	M	E		M	R	S
L	E	A	P	S	T	O	O	N	E	S	F	E	E	T
S	A	T	E		O	R	L	O	N		A	R	I	A
A	D	O	S		M	E	A	N	T		D	E	N	Y

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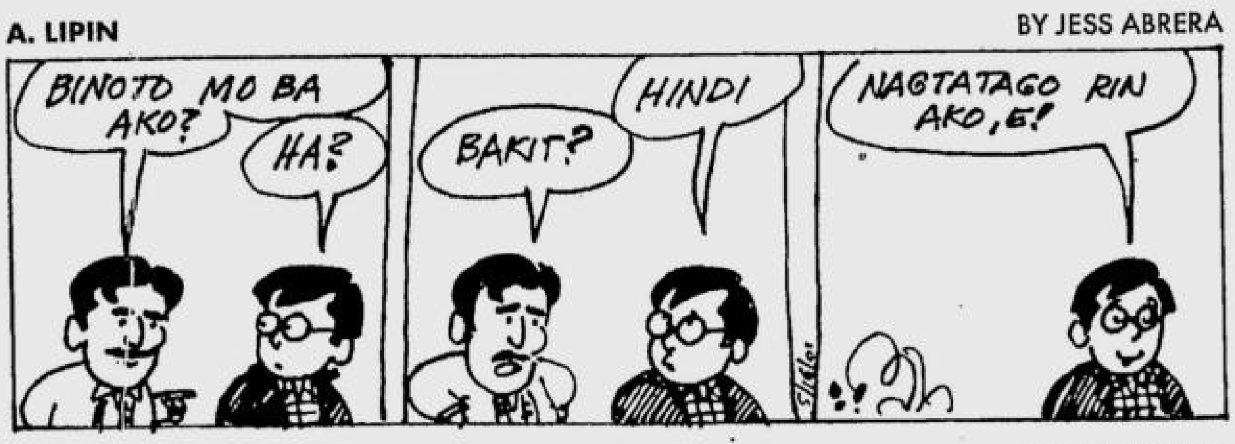
3/30/01

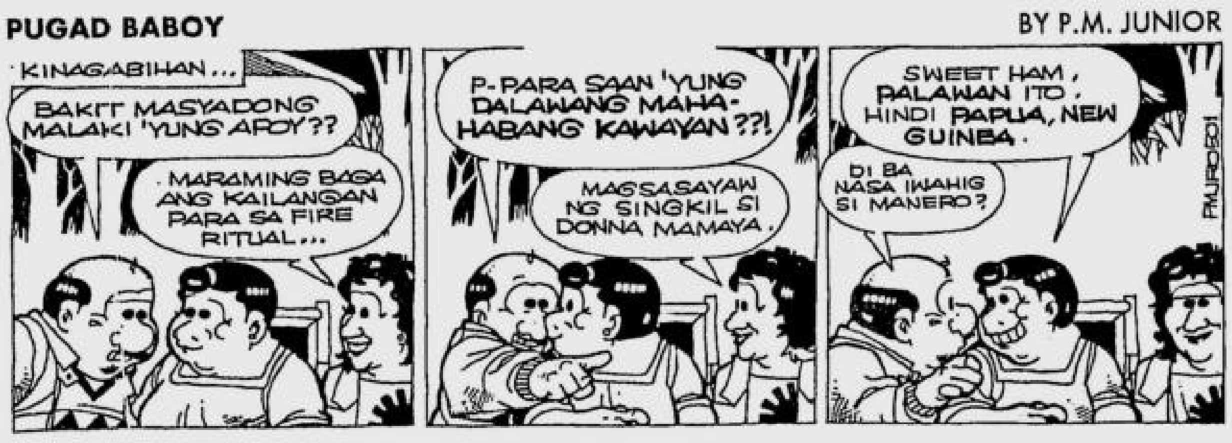
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


BINOTO MO BA AKO?
HA?
BAKIT?
HINDI
NAGTATAGO RIN AKO, E!

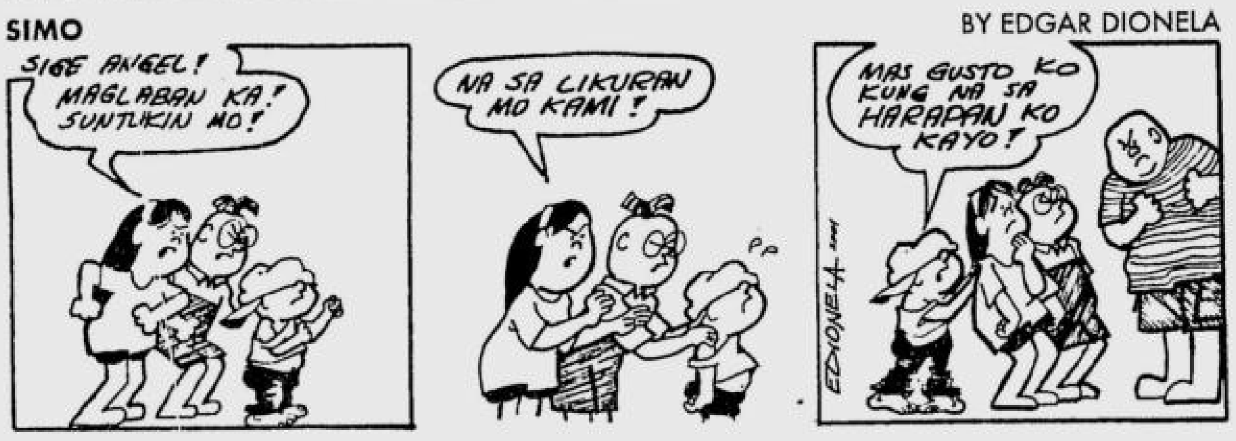
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


KINAGABIHAN...
BAKIT MASYADONG MALAKI 'YUNG APOY??
MARAMING BAGA ANG KAILANGAN PARA SA FIRE RITUAL...
P-PARA SAAN 'YUNG DALAWANG MAHAHABANG KAWAYAN??!
MAGSASAYAW NG SINGKIL SI DONNA MAMAYA.
SWEET HAM, PALAWAN ITO. HINDI PAPUA, NEW GUINEA.
DI BA NASA IWAHIG SI MANERO?
PMJR0501

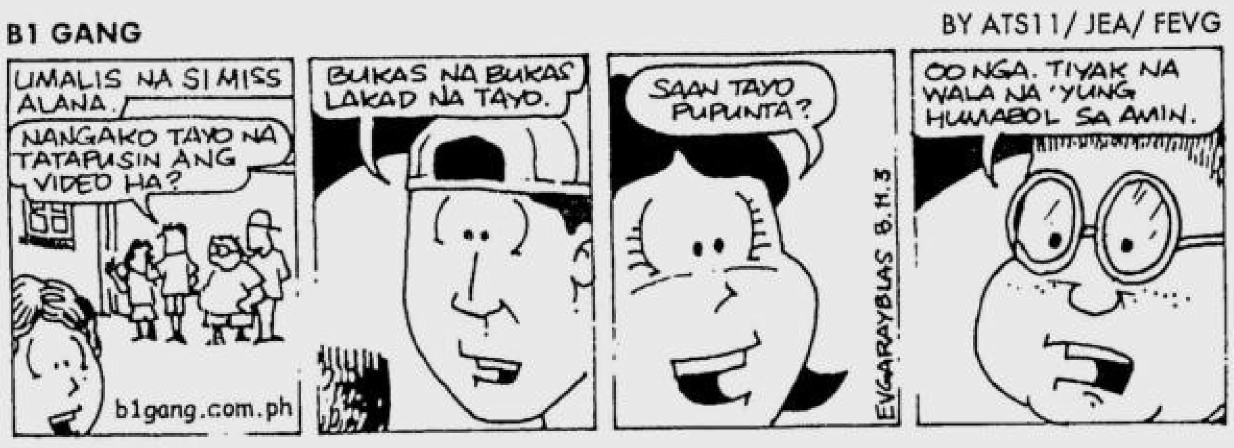
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


SIGE ANGEL! MAGLABAN KA! SUNTUKIN MO!
NA SA LIKURAN MO KAMI!
MAS GUSTO KO KUNG NA SA HARAPAN KO KAYO!
EDIONELA

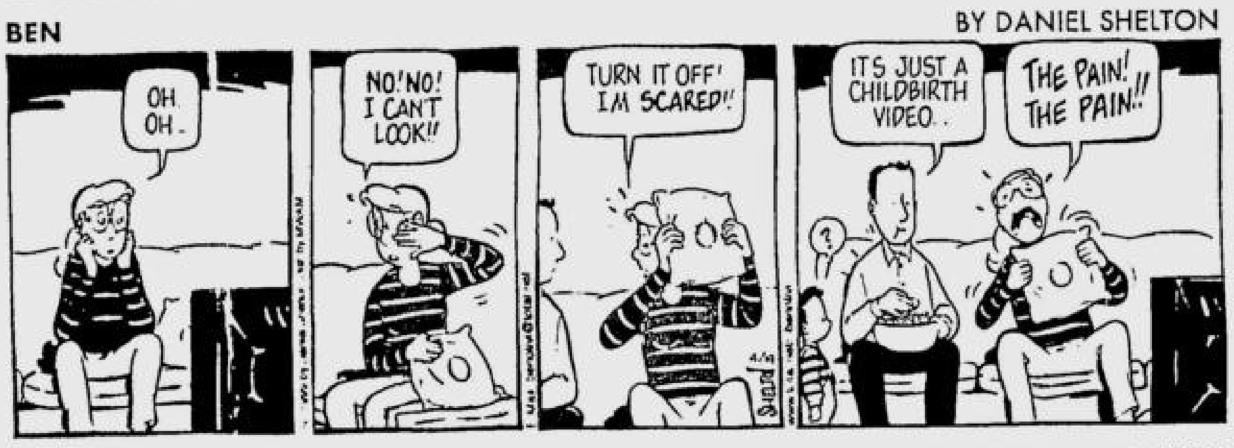
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


UMALIS NA SI MISS ALANA.
NANGAKO TAYO NA TATAPUSIN ANG VIDEO HA?
b1gang.com.ph
BUKAS NA BUKAS LAKAD NA TAYO.
SAAN TAYO PUPUNTA?
EVGARAYBLAS 8.H.3
OO NGA. TIYAK NA WALA NA 'YUNG HUMABOL SA AMIN.

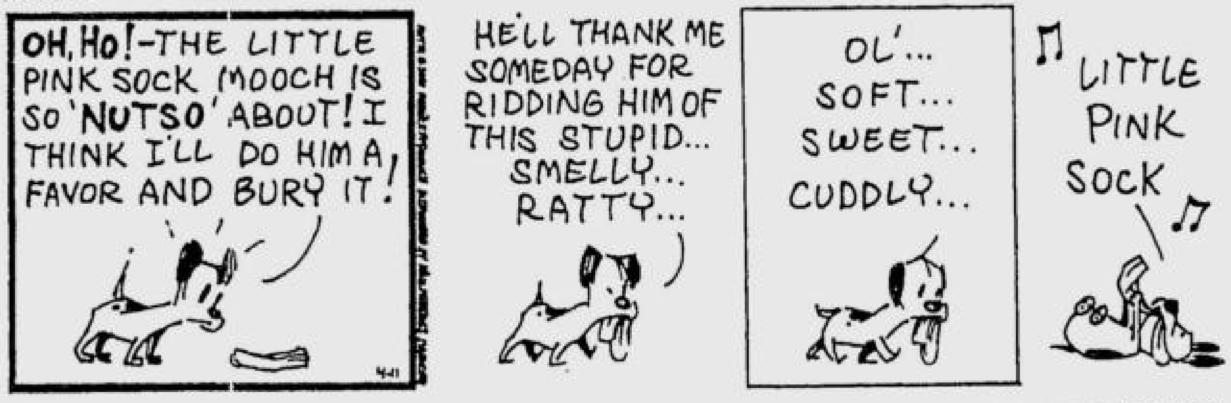
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


OH. OH.
NO! NO! I CAN'T LOOK!!
TURN IT OFF! I'M SCARED!!
ITS JUST A CHILDBIRTH VIDEO..
THE PAIN! THE PAIN!!

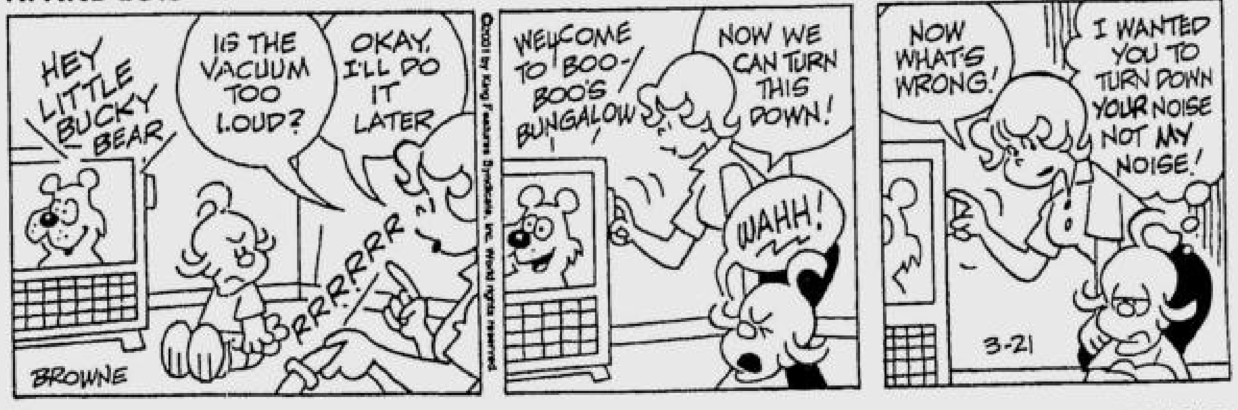
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


OH, HO! - THE LITTLE PINK SOCK MOOCH IS SO 'NUTSO' ABOUT! I THINK I'LL DO HIM A FAVOR AND BURY IT!
4-11
HE'LL THANK ME SOMEDAY FOR RIDDING HIM OF THIS STUPID... SMELLY... RATTY...
OL'... SOFT... SWEET... CUDDLY...
LITTLE PINK SOCK

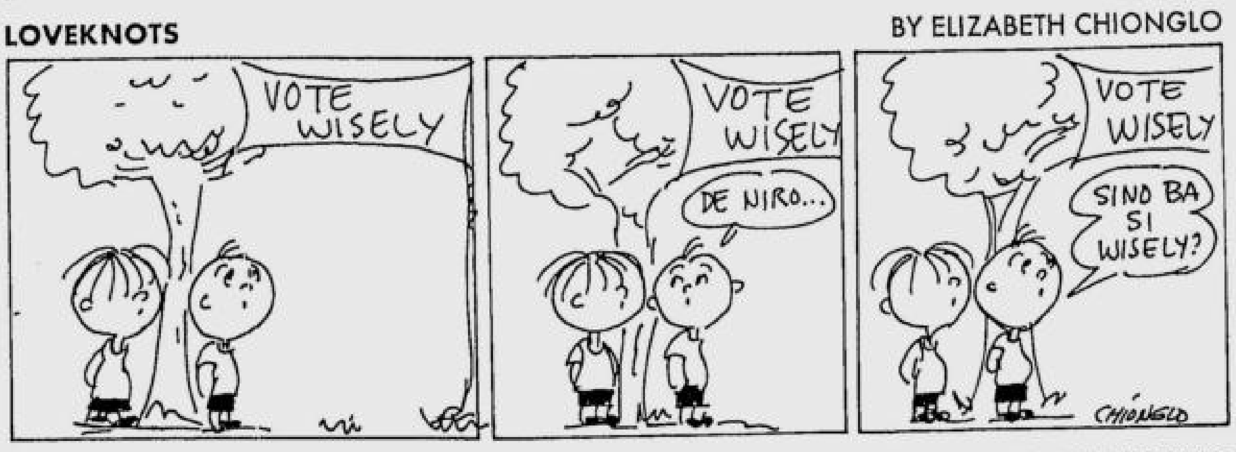
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


HEY LITTLE BUCKY BEAR
IS THE VACUUM TOO LOUD?
OKAY, I'LL DO IT LATER
RRRRRR
BROWNE
WELCOME TO BOO-BOO'S BUNGALOW
NOW WE CAN TURN THIS DOWN!
WAHH!
NOW WHAT'S WRONG!
I WANTED YOU TO TURN DOWN YOUR NOISE NOT MY NOISE!
3-21

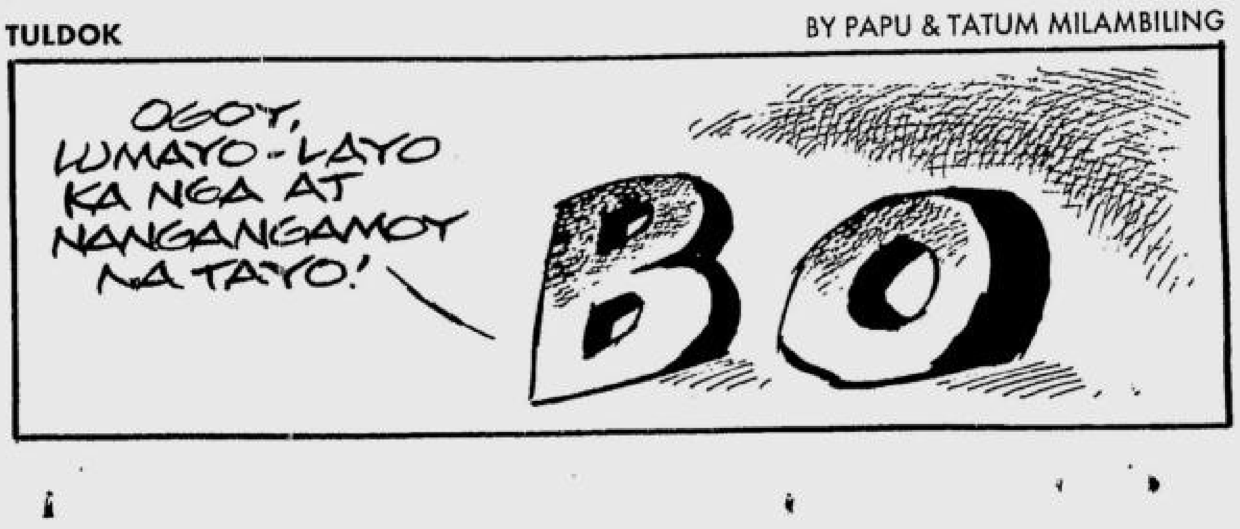
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


VOTE WISELY
VOTE WISELY
DE NIRO...
VOTE WISELY
SINO BA SI WISELY?
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


OGOY, LUMAYO-LAYO KA NGA AT NANGANGAMOY NA TAYO!
BO

HOW TO MAKE A FORTUNE ONLINE

(From page D1)

You get paid bigger if the people who go to them from your website actually buy something.

"So if I owned a site, I can just click and click the banner from my site and I get paid more?"

No, they said. You can't cheat. They check the IP addresses. Oh well. So much for a grand idea.

Affiliate programs. This is very similar to click-throughs, only this time you're focusing on a specific product. Choose a product and feature it in your site along with a link to the online store. You get paid when people click to go to the online store selling that product, and even more when they actually buy it. This is how Amazon got popular, according to them.

Another variation is the type of service Vstore.com offers. You make your own store in their site, picking from the products they already have. They pay you with profits. It's like you franchise without investing anything but your time. According to Bathala, though, the sign-up process is long and complicated.

Provide content. "Themestream.com was a popular site offering this service. *Pero bagsak na yata*," Freeurmind said.

If you're a writer, you look for a category your work will fit under (if you can't find any, they can create a category for you) and you upload it. They pay you depending on the number of people who visit your page, so it's up to you to generate hits.

They actually pay well, Freeurmind says. The downside is you pass on the ownership of your content to them.

Sell. This is a basic. This is how the owner of Amazon.com suddenly shot up to billionaire status. You can either do it small-time by auctioning off items at Ebay.com or you can go big-time by making your own store.

I have to warn you, though. This is difficult. Setting up your own payment system is very tedious. Add to that the pressure of making sure that people will really visit and actually buy from your store, plus the logistics and the security.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Then again, as Freeurmind said, "The more popular the method is and the easier it is, the less money you make."

The bad. Here comes the juicy part. Over pork chops, chicken mushroom and Cajun chicken fingers, we had an extensive discussion on the dark side of making money online. Let me begin this part with a warning. Wannabe techno-freaks, don't try this at home, or elsewhere.

Make porn sites. If you've surfed porn sites, you'd know that most of them ask for your Adult Check ID and password. Adult Check sites earn money by charging users monthly for the ID and password they can use to access all sorts of porn sites. But, of course, they need to come up with more sites that would get people interested in acquiring an adult check password. Thus they encourage webmasters to make porn sites.

You sign up with them, they categorize your site and you get paid based on the number of people who visit. "All you need is one lousy site and then you can sign up and become a webmaster. You can access sites and get photos from them," said Freeurmind. Recycle is what they call it.

The click-through method is also applied here. Banner clicks get a low price, sign-ups get higher, and when they get adult check IDs, you get 40 percent from their first payment.

Bathala has made 50 porn sites. He gets $30 per 15 days. Not bad really, since no updates are required on the sites. After making them, you just leave them alone and the money continues to come in. Bathala's friend made 200 porn sites and every 15 days he gets a check for $100. He also knows one Australian guy who made 5,000 porn sites. He gets $2,000 per 15 days.

Freeurmind said, "And since there are more than one Adult Check site, you can sign up your porn sites and get more money."

"Porn probably continues to be the biggest money-earner online," he added.

Sell your users. This makes me sick. You remember how secure you felt when the terms and conditions of a site you signed up in declared that your private information will not—and would never be, not under any circumstances—be divulged? You can forget that now.

Websites sell your information by the bulk to marketers who want to know more about Internet users. Most dotcoms on the verge of collapsing do this as a last attempt to at least get some of their money back.

Others, even individuals, sell e-mail addresses to spammers. That's illegal in the US, but not in our country. And that, ladies and gentlemen, is why you get tons of spam mail every day.

Cybersquatting. Buy good domain names (although by now most decent domain names have probably already been purchased; Freeurmind said that probably 70 percent or more of the dictionary has already been bought), like Juliaroberts.com or Noraaunor.com, and then auction it off in Ebay or sell it on the site itself.

Domains are sold normally at $35 a year and can even go as low as $10, depending on where you buy it. But the value of a really good domain name can go up to thousands.

Dot.tv is selling .tv domains for a higher price. Believe it or not, the bidding for anywhere.com, supposedly the world's best domain name (I don't see why), is up to $8 million dollars. No kidding. And that's just now. There's no doubt it will go up even more.

Resale. Buy things online and sell them to other people. Easy as that. A lot of Filipino Internet users (from AMA, according to Bathala) got the same idea. As a result, the Rio mp3 player wasn't sold to people in the Philippines for quite a while. The same thing happened to Amazon, too.

Steal. No matter how high-tech it is, people, it is still stealing. Some Internet-savvy individuals get floating credit-card numbers from the Internet (heck, they're even given away in IRC) and purchase all sorts of things online, even laptops and computers. The big problem here, naturally, would be shipping, since it would be easy for you to be traced if you get caught.

But they've even thought of a way to get around this. You try to find a "partner" in the US, and whatever it is you buy, you get two of everything. Have them both sent to him; he'll keep one and send you the other one.

Of course, there's no guarantee since that crook might not send you anything. Then again, it's not like you invested anything, so you have nothing to lose.

The big league. This one's a real scam. And Bathala is one of the people who pulled it off. "*Matrabaho yun*," he said.

Their first step was to make a fake ATM bank account, using fake IDs, of course. (Come on, you've heard this before. Jose Velarde. Does that ring a bell?)

They made a site where they would charge members for use and set up a payment system. Then, they collected credit-card numbers that were floating around and used the credit-card generator to get even more numbers. The credit card generator is a software made by a young Russian dude.

All you have to do is enter one number and it generates a thousand more. Then starts the very tedious process of checking the validity of the numbers. When they had a whole list, they signed up the credit-card numbers in their own site. And just like that, the money started to pour in.

In just three months, they were able to amass—hold on to your seats—$7,000. This they withdrew from different machines every day (since the maximum withdrawal is P10,000 a day), even going as far as Tagaytay and Bulacan so they wouldn't get caught. They also have a special trick with a foil to distort the image in the ATM's security camera.

But the bank has gotten suspicious of them. The staff has put a hold on the remaining P50,000 in their account. And they've been receiving calls inviting them to go to the bank to "claim a free gift." But they know better. The calls have been and will continue to be ignored. Forget the P50,000.

"It was just an experiment," Bathala said. But he looked mighty proud that it worked.

What happens if they get caught?

"*Patay*," he said. "*Kulong ka sa* US. Although there was a time, *yung ibang nahuhuli*, they're offered jobs, usually *sa* security."

Freeurmind said, "You made use of a hole in their system. It's their job to find it and fix it. *May mga nakulong na pero mas maraming hindi nahuhuli*."

Don't fear, not everyone who is online takes part in these scams.

"It really depends on the kind of person you are," Freeurmind said.

Right. Just like in the real world, there are bad guys and good guys in cyberspace.

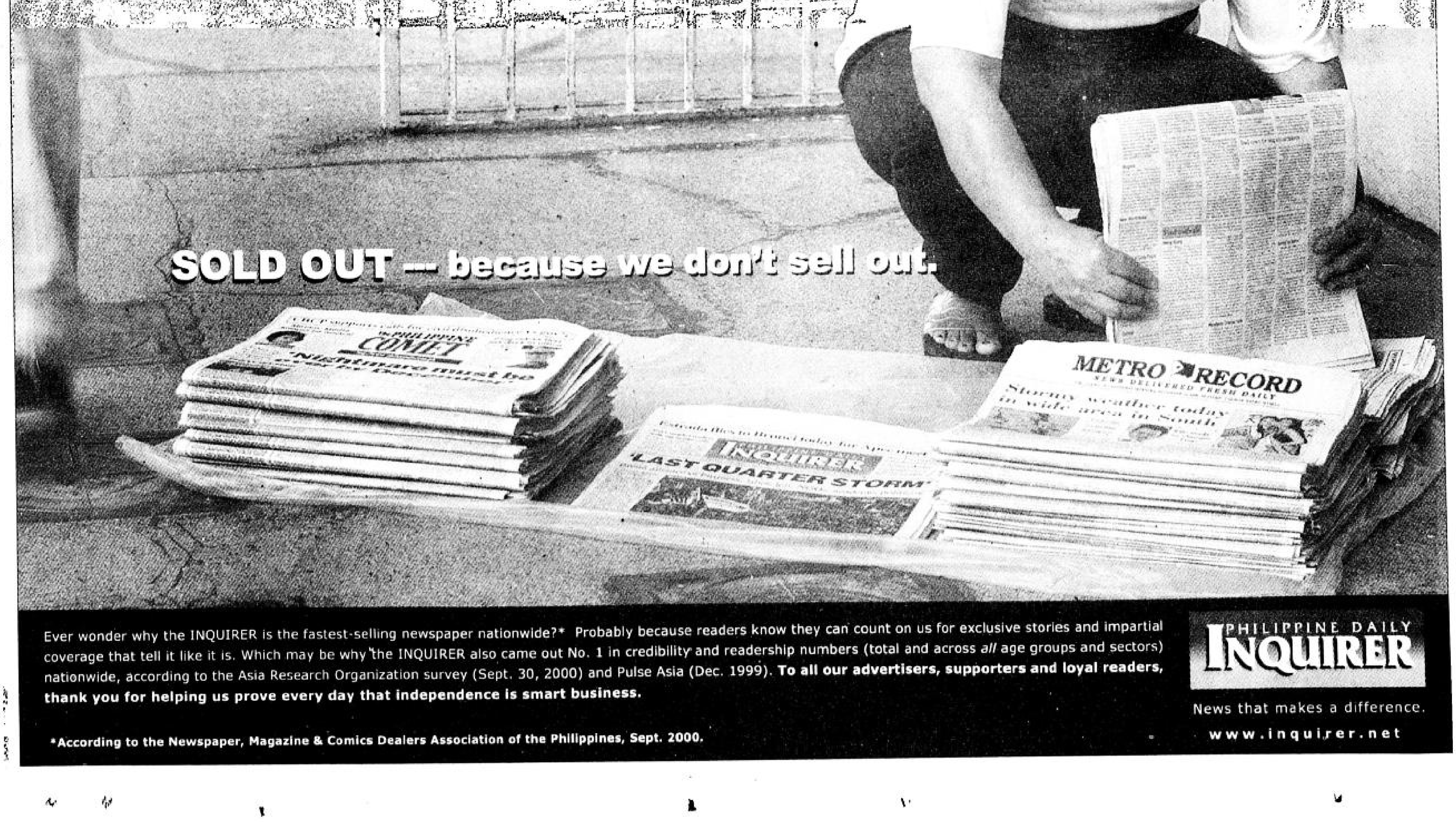
Now, before you get any idea about brandishing your own virtual sword or whatever it is that you want to flaunt, you better think twice. The online world will never run out of wannabe hackers, but hacking is not as simple as that.

Freeurmind said, "You can't just get scripts from a site and say 'Hey, I'm a hacker.' You have to learn how to program first. And why would you announce you're a hacker? That's stupid. That's like going out of your house and announcing you're a pickpocket."

Besides, when you think about it, what rewards would you get from getting money online illegally? Sure you'd get temporary spending money, but in the long run, what would you have to show for it?

I mean, come on, if these two were really filthy rich, then this writer shouldn't have had to treat them to dinner, right?

E-mail the author at pahmmy@exchange.ph



Ever wonder why the INQUIRER is the fastest-selling newspaper nationwide?* Probably because readers know they can count on us for exclusive stories and impartial coverage that tell it like it is. Which may be why the INQUIRER also came out No. 1 in credibility and readership numbers (total and across *all* age groups and sectors) nationwide, according to the Asia Research Organization survey (Sept. 30, 2000) and Pulse Asia (Dec. 1999). **To all our advertisers, supporters and loyal readers, thank you for helping us prove every day that independence is smart business.**

*According to the Newspaper, Magazine & Comics Dealers Association of the Philippines, Sept. 2000.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

News that makes a difference.

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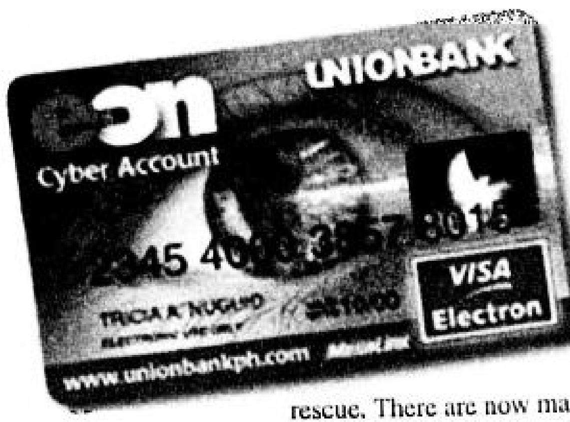
High-tech payment systems

By Gary Mercado

SO you've got money to burn, eh? Saved up from your allowance or job? Or maybe a graduation or birthday gift from mom and dad? However you've acquired it, it's time for the most exciting part–spending!



But wait a minute, there must be a better way than carrying a lot of cash around. That's dangerous! And what about that good deal you saw on a website? How can you buy from there instead?

Well, fear not, modern technology has come to the rescue. There are now many alternative ways to shop without having to lug a pickpocket. Introducing E-On, Express Cash, Smart Money and Mondex, which offer new exciting services that use state-of-the-art technology to provide convenience and security.

Too hi-tech for you? You might find them intimidating but they're actually easy to use once you take time out to understand them. Here we'll give you a glimpse of what's going on in the local e-cash market and how they apply to you.

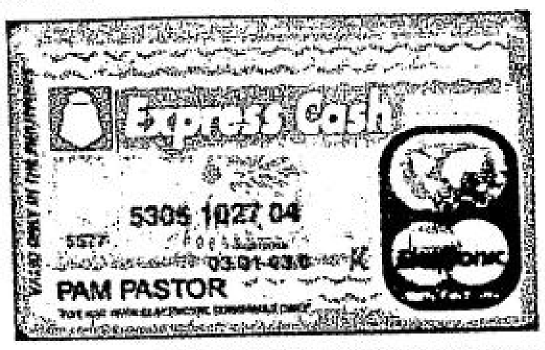
Smart Money

To understand what Smart Money is about, it's important to know what it's not. It isn't a credit card, which you can utilize to borrow money. It isn't a debit card either for it doesn't take money from your bank account. And it's not an e-chip card, where important data such as your balance and purchases are stored elsewhere. So it's not a big deal if you'd lose it because getting a new card can give you access to your old data. Smart calls it an "electronic wallet" but you don't need to have a Smart cellphone, although you will be missing out on its most impressive features.

As "a payment card," Smart Money offers services similar to those given to credit card owners. And you can use it in the over 15,000 MasterCard terminals nationwide.

Using Smart Money, Smart cellphone subscribers, even the prepaid ones, can reload their prepaid accounts via text and even reload another's Smart phone. Wouldn't it be cool to reload your friend's phone so they won't have an excuse in not texting or calling you? You can also transfer money to other Smart Money users via Wallet to Wallet Transfers. Great for parents who send their children's allowances.

You can also buy items from stores and even the Internet. Once you subscribe, you are given your own code and cellphone number. After deciding what you want, just give your code (called an M-COM no.) and you'll receive a text asking to confirm it. After texting a confirmation reply, you'll get the goods! Remember, you can do this over the cell or through websites which allow you to enter the M-COM code. Because it sends a text message for confirmation, it can avoid possible security holes that Internet purchases sometimes have. If you don't like the purchase just text back a "No" and the transaction will be terminated.



Imagine performing all these transactions without having to go to a bank or station. You can even check how much money you still have by texting. You only need to go to the station when you have to reload money. And this won't be a hassle, for Smart Money has already signed up several stores and banks all over the country.

So, you're ready to subscribe? Well, your SIM has to be changed to the new MBS STK SIM card. Postpaid subscribers won't have to spend for the new SIM, while those who have prepaid types have to pay P990, the cost of a new SIM. In both cases you get the Smart Money card for free, which you still have to load with a minimum of P100. Prepaid subscribers will also be getting a new cellphone number, while postpaid ones can retain their old numbers. If you just want the card and have no plan to use the service with your Smart phone, you just have to maintain a minimum balance of P500.

Smart Money won the Most Innovative GSM Wireless Service for Customers in the 3GSM World Congress in France last year. It has been getting 1,000 subscribers a day.

Check out www.smart.com.ph or dial 811-0211 for more details.

BPI Express Cash

Launched November 2000, BPI's Express Cash also uses MasterCard's system to gain access to 15,000 stores across the country. However, you cannot use it as a credit card, which means you do not have to go through tedious sign-up procedures, possess a credit check or pay any fees. Nor is it a debit card. It's not also necessary to have a regular (checking or savings) account at BPI.

What this card offers is convenient shopping and easy management of your funds. Soon you will be able to use BPI's ubiquitous ATM machines as well as the 24x7 hotline number 89-100 to load and withdraw cash and check balances.

On their website, the only thing you can do is load your Express Cash, but you must have a regular account to do so. If you only have the card, you can't do any transaction, so you're better off dialing 89-100.

BPI Express Cash strikes me as a product, for it's acceptable in MasterCard stores and the BPI distribution network.

Check out www.bpi.com.ph, dial 89-100, or go to your nearest BPI branch for details.

Mondex

Mondex, launched last October, takes a unique approach by putting information on the card itself via a tiny microchip. This is different from the more popular magnetic strip, which retrieves data from elsewhere.

This bit of detail makes Mondex a standout: It can be used as a passport, credit card, membership card or ID depending on the companies or organizations (like the government, for example) hooked up with Mondex. You can also use Mondex in paying taxis, vendos and market stall owners who also have a Mondex card. All the payee needs is a small battery-operated terminal which can "read" your card and transfer the payment into their own card. They can then go to the bank for encashment.

Its similarity to the MasterCard logo is no coincidence. It is owned by the company and enjoys global coverage. It can even carry five different currencies. The card is as good as cash. You can check it out in only a few stalls at Shangri-La Edsa. I consider this card a "virtual wallet" mainly because you can readily give cash to another, just like giving a P100-bill to a person, even if the recipient needs a device to read your card.

Its potential as an ID and membership card is even greater. Can you see yourself using this in future elections?

Check out www.mondex.com, www.mondex-phil.com or dial 9958888 for details.

E-On

Launched June last year, the E-On CyberAccount from Unionbank is basically a Megalink ATM card with a twist. It offers standard ATM functions as well as neat stuff. You can transfer funds to another account in any bank, write a "Cybercheck" and have it delivered and pay bills. You can even get a free e-mail account using the unionbankph.com domain.

Since March this year, E-On has added Visa electron debit card functionalities to your CyberAccount called E-On Electron. It is the only local Electron card acceptable abroad. This means you can use it in buying things on the Internet.

As a CyberAccount, it already has 80,000 subscribers and hopes to add 100,000 every year.

Check out www.unionbankph.com, call 8101466, or visit a nearby Unionbank branch for details.

All these cards share the same features in terms of convenience. There are no application forms, no waiting time for approval, no processing fees or membership fees. You just sign up, get the card and you're ready to rock.

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Nestlé Ice Cream COOL SUMMER TREATS! P69 P79 P89
P69
PINOY TOPPING: 2 pcs. Longanisa, Mini Bursilog, Fried Egg, Rice, Soup
All day BUFFET on TOPPINGS: Choice of 1 Buffet Dish, Pancit Canton, Fried Rice, Soup
QUEEN'S Ilocano Food: Kare-Kare, Fried Lumpia, Plain Rice, Soup
Maxim's TEA HOUSE: Lumpiang Shanghai, Beef Stew, Plain Rice, Egg, Soup
WEI-CHUAN FOODS: Lumpiang Shanghai, Fried Chicken, Fried Rice
GOTO KING: Goto Halo Special, Tokwa't Baboy, Puto
ISDA: 2 Fish Lumpia, Bopis, Pancit Canton, Rice, Soup
WOKS COOKIN': Choice of Chicken w/ Cashew Nuts, Young Corn, Cuchay, Rice
La Chesca: Pinakbet, Bopis, Pancit, Rice
P79
SIZZLING PLATE: 2 pcs. Hamburger Patties w/ Cheese & Egg, Mixed Vegetables, Java Rice
Chin's EXPRESS: Squid in White Sauce, Supreme Beef, Pancit Canton, Rice, Soup
LYDIA'S LECHON: Choice of any 2 viands with Rice
TAPSI Plus: Tapsilog, Meatloafsilog
GOLDEN CANTONESE: Crab Omelette, Chopsuey, Pancit Canton, Plain Rice, Soup
Sandy's Cuisine: Callos, Pinakbet, Fried Rice, Soup
ILONGGO GRILL: Pork Steak, Pancit Molo, Rice
SM FOODCOURT
P89
Inihaw EXPRESS: Seafoods Binagoongan, Grilled Tilapia, Talong w/ Bagoong, Rice, Soup
SHOKUJI: Karaage Bento Box w/ Chicken, Coleslaw, Rice & Miso Soup w/ Tuna Sashimi
KAMAY KAINAN: Kare-Kare, 1/2 Fried Bangus, Rice, Soup
PANSIT MALABON: Pancit Malabon or Pancit Canton, 2 slices Puto Malabon
HEN LIN MAMI DIMSUM HOUSE: Wanton Mami, 2 pcs. Mini Cuapao, 1 order Shark's Fin
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Canon

ARI[illegible] B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor
SPROJECTS@INQUIRER.COM.PH
SONNY GUEVARRA, Account Manager

Printers inspired by nature

Taking cue from nature's finer qualities, Canon recently unveiled the S-series, its latest in bubble jet printers

BY CHARLES E. BUBAN

THE green grass, the rocks and stones, the surging water, the sands on the beach, the sturdy wood. These glorious images represent some of nature's multifaceted characters. Their attributes provide inspiration for the inventors at Canon who have come up with a new breed of bubble jet printers dubbed the S-series.

The S-series is nature inspired. Each Canon printer model—the S400, S450, S600, S800 and the S4500—is a marriage between beauty and functionality.

In pursuit of the most natural images, every Canon S-series printers are packed with outstanding features no other printer has. From Brilliant New Ink to Think Tank System, Canon printers faithfully reproduce images in their most natural and realistic form.

The grasses are greener

No wonder golfers have a better time competing in their game. Regardless of how tired they are or how complicated their situation may be, the sight of a verdant golf course can revitalize them in no time. It was this inspiration that gave Canon engineers the idea to come up with the S400. Like that green, green grass at the fairways, the S400's functionality plays an important role in a home and office environment.

The S400 produces brilliantly natural images—and confidently reproduces even complex colors. It's so user friendly that operating it is effortless. Thanks to a host of technological innovations like Brilliant Inks, Drop Modulation Technology and the Think Tank System, the images are naturally lifelike.

The shades of green are perhaps the most difficult colors to capture in print. But with the S400, the image of green grass is much more realistic, thanks to an array of Canon technologies. Canon ink cartridges for the S400 use new inks that produce sharper contrast, more vivid colors, more clearly defined blacks, and an increased resistance to fading. The black ink in both black and regular color cartridges employ pigment black ink for sharper text reproduction and improved water resistance: The 4-color photo cartridge, on the other hand, delivers superior gradation, which means more faithful reproduction of pale, intermediate colors—such as skin tones—and sharper rendering of highly illuminated areas. Even color bleed is also reduced.

The S400 employs Drop Modulation Technology to achieve a print resolution of up to 1400x720 dpi. With DMT, each nozzle in the print head can produce two sizes of ink droplets. DMT means high-quality printing at improved speeds using any cartridge: black, regular color or photo.

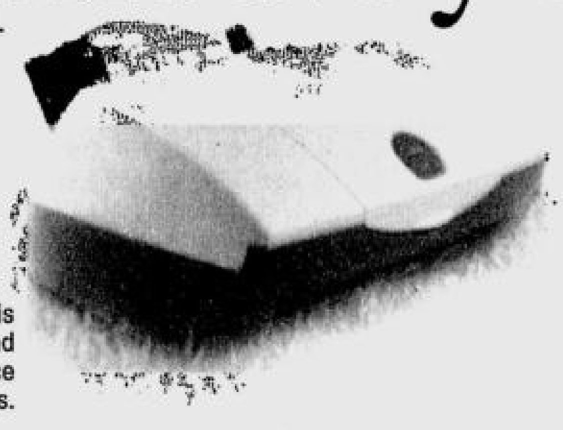
The S400 churns out monochrome at the rate of 9 pages per minute and color at 4 ppm thanks to a multi-nozzle while color and photo cartridges have 48 nozzles for each color. With so many more nozzles and bi-directional printing, the S400 delivers spectacular improvements in printing speed without compromising print quality. Even at such high-speed printing, the S400 is whisper-quiet at a 45-decibel operating level.

Like all the S-series printers, the S400 uses the Canon Think Tank System, which allows users to replace individual inks rather than buying the complete cartridge each time a color runs out. Moreover, the accurate ink-level detectors in the cartridge warn users when ink levels are low, so ink never runs out during print job.

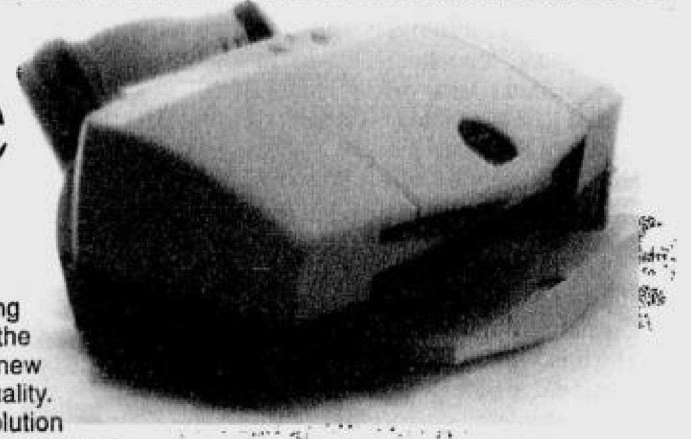
The S400 is so versatile that you can convert it to a high-resolution scanner. By replacing the ink cartridge with an optional IS-32 scanner cartridge, the S400 instantly turns into a 720-dpi scanner. It also comes with a parallel interface for Windows 98, Windows 2000, or USB interface for both Windows and Macintosh.

The S400 also comes with a driver software that includes the Photo Optimizer, which corrects the tonal range of images captured with a digital camera. It also features a Simulate Illustration function that easily transforms photos to illustrations. Monochrome Effects converts color photos to sepia hues or other color tones and can be used with the Illustration function to create special effects.

PRINTERS/ E2



THE Canon S400 is perfect for home and small office requirements.



THE sharpest among the Canon S-series, the S800 offers a new dimension in print quality. This ultra-high resolution printer offers an endless array of creative possibilities and an infinite number of color combinations, thanks to its breathtaking 2400x1200-dpi resolution and high-intensity ink and 49 levels of color gradations for each pixel.

S400
BUBBLE JET PRINTER

S STANDS FOR SURPRISINGLY SMART

The grass will always be greener on your side of the fence with this amazing new Bubble Jet printer that's a natural for home or small office use. You'll get beautiful, high-resolution colour and quick-smart output. It will even capture colour as well as print it with the optional IS-32 scanner cartridge. Like every S-series printer, the S400 is simple to use, reliable, quiet and cost-effective. And thanks to Canon Think Tanks™ technology – individually replaceable ink tanks with real-time ink level detection – you'll never run out of ink mid-print, and you'll never have to throw away another drop of ink. Better for nature, and better for your pocket.

The new S400 from Canon. Surprisingly smart at capturing nature..

• High resolution 1440 x 720 dpi colour. • High Intensity ink for more vivid colours and increased resistance to fading. • 9ppm of sharp, black text, 4ppm colour. • Cost-saving Think Tanks™ technology so you never waste a drop in ink. • Dual USB & Parallel Interface • Scanner option

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COLOR BUBBLE JET
Think TANKS
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The best technology in print

A new breed of scanners

SLEEK and powerful. This is how Canon describes its three new color flatbed scanners known by their model types: CanoScan D646U, CanoScan D1230U and CanoScan D2400UF.

Weighing just 1.8 kilograms, the D646U is one of Canon's thinnest, lightest, most compact and most affordable CCD scanners available in the market today. Aesthetically shaded in midnight blue, the D646U will surely dress up any desktop setting. Within this beauty lies a powerful 600 x 1200-dpi CCD scanner that captures naturally even the most intricate of images. Plus, the D646U has the Advanced Z-Lid that incorporates a special hinge that lifts the cover up, allowing scanning of objects up to 42 mm thick. The result is evenly lit scans that result to better overall scanned images.

Thanks to D646U's connectivity and its USB compatibility, you can create fantastic things with any photograph and send them anywhere through the e-mail. Print out photo images on a Canon bubble jet printers and you've got your own photo studio—or your own color copier! With the included ArcSoft PhotoStudio 2000 software, you can try your hand at creative image editing like altering colors or adding text to the image.

The D646U includes control software with a wide range of image adjustment settings to satisfy both novice and advanced users. Both Windows and Mac users can enjoy the time-saving benefits of OmniPage OCR software.

For users who require more, the CanoScan D1230U delivers both enhanced performance and expanded photo-handling capabilities. Featuring a true 1200 dpi CCD and 48-bit color scanning, the D1230U gives out a much superior image output. The D1230U can also scan 35-mm positives and negatives as well as large 4 x 5-inch films with the use of Film Adapter Unit FAU-S12.

Canon's sophisticated optical system called the Galileo lens boosts the scanner's 1200-dpi CCD sensor by reducing chromatic aberration while at the same time maximizing the use of light source. This system enables the D1230U to produce images with sharper details and higher color fidelity, and less noise than other conventional flatbed scanners. As for scanning speed, a combination of newly developed processor and hybrid motor brings preview scan time down to just six seconds, without degrading image quality.

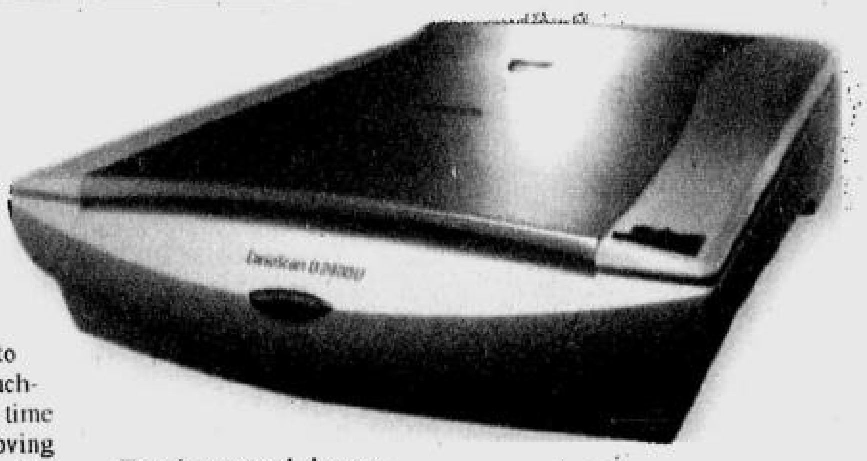
The D1230U comes with an incredible software package that offers you many different ways to enjoy your photos. With PhotoRecord, users can easily make high quality prints, enlargements, or additional copies. In combination with ArcSoft PhotoBase, users can scan up to three frames of 35-mm film at a time, manage all the images in the software, and then record selected images onto CD-R or CD-RW—a practical space-saving way to keep track of photos. Adobe Photoshop LE, the popular image editing software, is also included.

Setting new standards

Through the inclusion of Canon's Ultra Hyper CCD and a sophisticated optical system, the D2400UF sets a new standard in quality for the CanoScan flatbed scanners. Indeed, the D2400UF is the answer to exacting requirements of graphic professionals and other discriminating users.

CANOSCAN D646U (left) is a stylish, super-affordable color scanner that has it all while the CanoScan D1230U is a high-performing color scanner with photo-handling capabilities.

The D2400UF achieves detailed scans of up to 2400x4800-dpi optical resolution, with 48-bit scanning property to ensure extremely refined color gradations. A built-in Film Adapter Unit allows scanning of films ranging from 35-mm to 4x5-format. Canon's Film Automatic Retouching and Enhancement technology saves time and effort when working with film by removing from the image dust particles, scratches, and other imperfections that the scanner may detect on the film's surface. The FARE can be used for scans of up to 2400-dpi resolution. Furthermore, a complete set of software utilities makes it easy to print out multiple copies or enlargements of images, and also prepare CD-R image archives.



COMBINING unprecedented quality with versatile film scanning capabilities, the CanoScan D2400UF is an outstanding desktop solution for graphic professionals and other demanding users.

For improved image quality and speed, the D2400UF packs a 6-line Ultra Hyper CCD sensor and Super Galileo lens to bring out the best in the Ultra Hyper CCD by reducing chromatic aberration and other types of distortion, while harnessing the scanner's light source.

The D2400U combines a newly developed IC with hybrid motor that delivers fast preview scans. This innovation is enhanced by a wide range of user-friendly features, such as a one-touch scan button and a ScanGear Toolbox that have complemented earlier CanoScan flatbed scanners. *(Charles E. Buban)*

Printers inspired...

(From page E2)

tion to create special effects.

For those who require versatility on their printers, the S800 can easily be converted into a 600-dpi scanner (with 50-percent increase in speed) using the optional IS-52 scanner cartridge.

WHEN you need the big picture, the S4500 delivers beautiful, high-resolution images in A3 format.

Versatile as wood

Like the ever-dependable wood, the Canon S4500 provides users a wide range of creative options. Producing photo-quality A3 printing, images from the S4500 possess their own natural personality—thanks to the dual-cartridge system with new Brilliant Inks, Six-Color Photo Printing, Drop Modulation Technology and the Think Tanks System.

The S4500 will surely make a big difference in a competitive business environment. Get your documents fast with the printer's 9—ppm monocrome and 6-ppm color printing. By replacing the ink cartridge with the optional IS-32 scanner cartridge. The S4500 instantly becomes a high-resolution A3 size scanner.

Other business-oriented features packed into the S4500 include:

- the Photo Optimizer Pro, which improves the precision of existing photo optimizer functions
- the Document Stamp, which provides standard stamps such as "Confidential" and "Important"
- Page Layout which prints up to four pages of data on a single sheet for checking layout; and,
- the Reverse-Order printing which allows printing in reverse order (from the last page of the document specified) and/or compiles multi-page documents in the correct order without having to sort out pages after printing.

S800
BUBBLE JET PRINTER

S STANDS FOR STUNNING COLOURS

The new Canon S800 printer captures every grain, every colour, every last detail in 2400 x 1200 dpi photographic quality. And nobody knows more about photographic quality than Canon. Our new MicroFine Droplet Technology produces 4 picolitre ink droplets with 1/6 density photo inks, producing 49 levels of smooth gradations and eliminating graininess to create stunningly natural photo-grade images. And you get this stunning colour reproduction at a lower cost thanks to Canon's unique Think Tanks™, giving you 6 high intensity, light-fast inks in individually replaceable tanks with real-time ink level detection. You'll never run out of ink mid-print, and you'll never have to throw away another drop of ink - better for your pocket and better for the environment.

The new S800 from Canon. Stunningly smooth colour is simply in its nature.

• Ultra-high resolution 2400 x 1200dpi colour. • 4ppm of sharp, black text; 4ppm colour. • Cost-saving Think Tanks™ technology so you never waste a drop of ink. • High intensity ink for more vivid colours and increased resistance to fading • Dual Parallel and USB interface • Ultra-quiet operation (37dB)

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THE CANON DISCOVERY TOUR

IT was an outstanding event for Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc. when it held its dealers' night dubbed the "Canon Discovery Tour" recently at the Isla Ballroom of the Shangri-La Edsa Plaza Hotel in Mandaluyong City. One of the highlights was the launching of Canon's latest bubble jet printers, the S-series. Several dealers were also awarded for their outstanding performance in making the Canon brand a force to reckon with in the market today.

Welcoming business partners and guests were top executives of CMPI, namely Satoshi Kimura, President and CEO and Ramon Artificio, EVP for sales and marketing. Also gracing the event were Motoyasu Ishii, general manager at systems product division of Canon Singapore and Hiroshi Hara, regional marketing manager at system product division of Canon Singapore. The two distinguished guests reported on Canon's solid footing in the region, including its strong performance in the Philippines for the past two years. From their respective reports, both were confident that Canon this year would make it in the number one position in the Philippines.

KIMURA

ISHII

HARA

ARTEFICIO

TAKING centersatage were Canon's latest bubble jet printers, the S-series

CANON's top performing dealers

MAKING the event much livelier were the duo of Maxine and CMPI's very own Jonjon Ornopia

WINNERS ALL

CanoScan D646U

The way it looks is a reflection of the way it works.

The new Canon CanoScan D646U CCD scanner.

Canon's slimmest new CCD scanner is not just a pretty face. It really scans as well as it looks, with high-resolution 600dpi x 1200dpi input and 42-bit colour handling for smoother, clearer, more accurate scans. It's simple to use, thanks to the fuss-free USB connection and a bundle of user-friendly software for Mac or PC. And the external design is functional too: the Advanced Z-Lid makes magazines and thick books so much easier to scan. The new Canon CanoScan D646U - it's the affordable, good looking entry-level CCD scanner you've been asking for.

Advanced Z-Lid cover makes scanning thick books and magazines so much easier. (Up to 42mm height)

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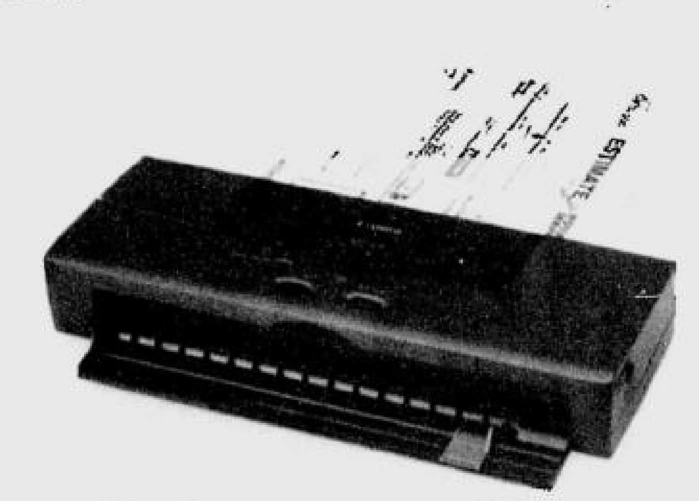
INSIST ON YOUR CANON MARKETING PHILIPPINES WARRANTY CARD

TWAIN 42 bit input USB

Canon



Printer on the go

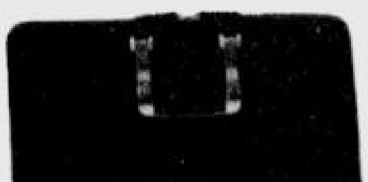
NOW you can bring your printer anywhere with you. The powerful BJC-55 is so portable, its 30.2-cm. x 11.25-cm. x 5-cm. dimension will fit easily into any bag. Even with the battery pack, this printer weighs only 900 grams.

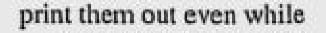
The BJC-55 packs several features designed for people on the go. It has a universal adapter that can be used anywhere in the world. With cordless printing, there is no need to carry cables around and no time wasted connecting them up. Equipped with IrDA 1.1 to enable fast, wireless printing from notebook and Handheld PCs. BJC-55 also supports direct connection to Windows 98, Windows 2000, Windows CE 2.1 and Macintosh with USB interface at home, at office, or when you're away on business.

With the Auto Sheet Feeder ASF-50, the BJC-55 holds up to 30 sheets of plain paper at a time for high volume jobs. And you won't disturb anyone while printing, thanks to BJC-55's noiseless 43-dB operating level.

The super-compact BJC-55 boasts printing speeds of 5.5 ppm per minute in monochrome and 2 ppm in color. With the built-in battery you can print up to 100 A4 pages per charge (using a black BC-10 cartridge at 1,500 characters per page in HQ mode). You get sharper output with 720x360-dpi resolution or enjoy photo-grade images when a 4-color photo ink cartridge is used.

Now you can easily scan photographs and maps using an IS-12 scanner cartridge. With this versatility you can incorporate your scanned images into documents and print them out even while you're away from office.





CANON BJC-55 makes a perfect companion for busy individuals.